

PRESS RELEASE

10 FEB 2023

The Minister of Public Health hereby informs the general public of the occurrence of several unexplained deaths in some villages of the Kie Ntem Province in Equatorial Guinea. These villages are neighboring with the Health Districts of Ambam, Kye-Ossi and Olamze in the South Region of Cameroon. All the victims died of haemorrhagic fever.

In view of the high risk of importation of this disease and in order to detect and respond to any cases at an early stage, the local administrative authorities have taken measures including restricting movements at the Cameroon-Equatorial Guinea border.

Also, the Minister of Public Health, in collaboration with all the Administrations concerned, and with the support of experts from WHO and Atlanta CDC, has already taken the following measures:

-Conduct of multisector investigations in the above-mentioned risk areas, for the active search for cases and contacts, in collaboration with the teams from Equatorial Guinea;

- The strengthening of epidemiological surveillance;
- The intensification of awareness-raising and community mobilization activities.

Dr MANAOUDA Malachie invites health workers to immediately report and isolate all suspected cases and avoid moving them, in strict compliance with infection prevention and control measures.

The Minister of Public Health therefore, urges the population to strictly respect the measures prescribed by the local authorities as this is not a mystical phenomenon or witchcraft. He also invites the population to call the toll-free number in case of:

- Any suspected death in these localities,
 - Any person with haemorrhage from any natural orifice,
 - Any person presenting signs of weakness, headache, fever,
- This, with or without the intention of travelling to Equatorial Guinea.

He further invites everyone to respect standard hygiene measures such as:

-Regularly washing your hands with clean running water and soap, especially after :

- handling an animal or animal product
 - taking care of a person with symptoms of haemorrhagic fever
- Avoiding contact with body fluids from sick persons, including unprotected sexual intercourse ;
 - Avoiding contact with sick or dead wild animals;
 - Washing food and eating it well cooked and hot.

At the same time, he reassures the populations that at the current stage of the situation, there is no reason to be worried, given that our surveillance and response mechanism is effectively in place and strengthened. The Minister of Public Health hereby invites all media organs to provide the public with essential and rightful information.

For further information, please call the toll-free number 1610.

