



<b>SITUATION: MPOX PREPAREDNESS UPDATE</b>	<b>LOCATION: LIBERIA</b>
<b>DATE OF REPORT: AUGUST 23, 2024</b>	
<b>REPORTING PERIOD: JANUARY 1 – AUGUST 18, 2024</b>	<b>UPDATE NO: 1</b>

## HIGHLIGHTS

- No new confirmed case reported
- Total suspected cases reported (Epi week 1-33 2024): 55
- Total confirmed cases: 6
- Total Death: 0

## SITUATIONAL CONTEXT

Mpox is a zoonotic viral disease transmitted from animals to humans with symptoms that last 14 to 21 days. Severe cases occur more commonly among children and are related to pre-existing health conditions and the severity of complications. However, the case fatality rate for Mpox can vary widely between epidemics but has been less than 10% in documented events, mostly among young children.

As of August 20, 2024, twelve (12) member states of the Africa Union (AU), including Liberia, reported 18,910 cases and 541 deaths. About 96% of cases and 97% of deaths were reported from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). As a result, the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) and the World Health Organization declared the Mpox outbreak as a Public Health Emergency of Continental Security and a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC) on the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> of August 2024, respectively.

Mpox is one of the immediately reportable priority diseases in Liberia. Since 2016, sporadic cases have been reported across the country. Between November 2016 and August 2024, 369 suspected cases, including 33 laboratory-confirmed cases, have been reported, with no deaths recorded.

**Table 1: Distribution of Mpox cases, Liberia, Epi-week 1 – 33, 2024**

<b>Variables</b>	<b>Total</b>
Total suspected cases reported	55
Total samples collected	55
Total samples tested	38
Total Laboratory confirmed	6
Total confirmed cases alive	6
Total deaths among confirmed cases	0
Overall case fatality rate (CFR)	0
Total confirmed cases currently in isolation	0
Total suspected cases in home-based care	0

### Characteristics of Confirmed cases, Epi-week 1-33, 2024

Variable	Frequency	Proportion (%)
Sex		
Male	3	50
Female	3	50
Age range (7-39)		
Reporting County		
Sinoe	1	16.6
Nimba	4	66.6
Grand Kru	1	16.6

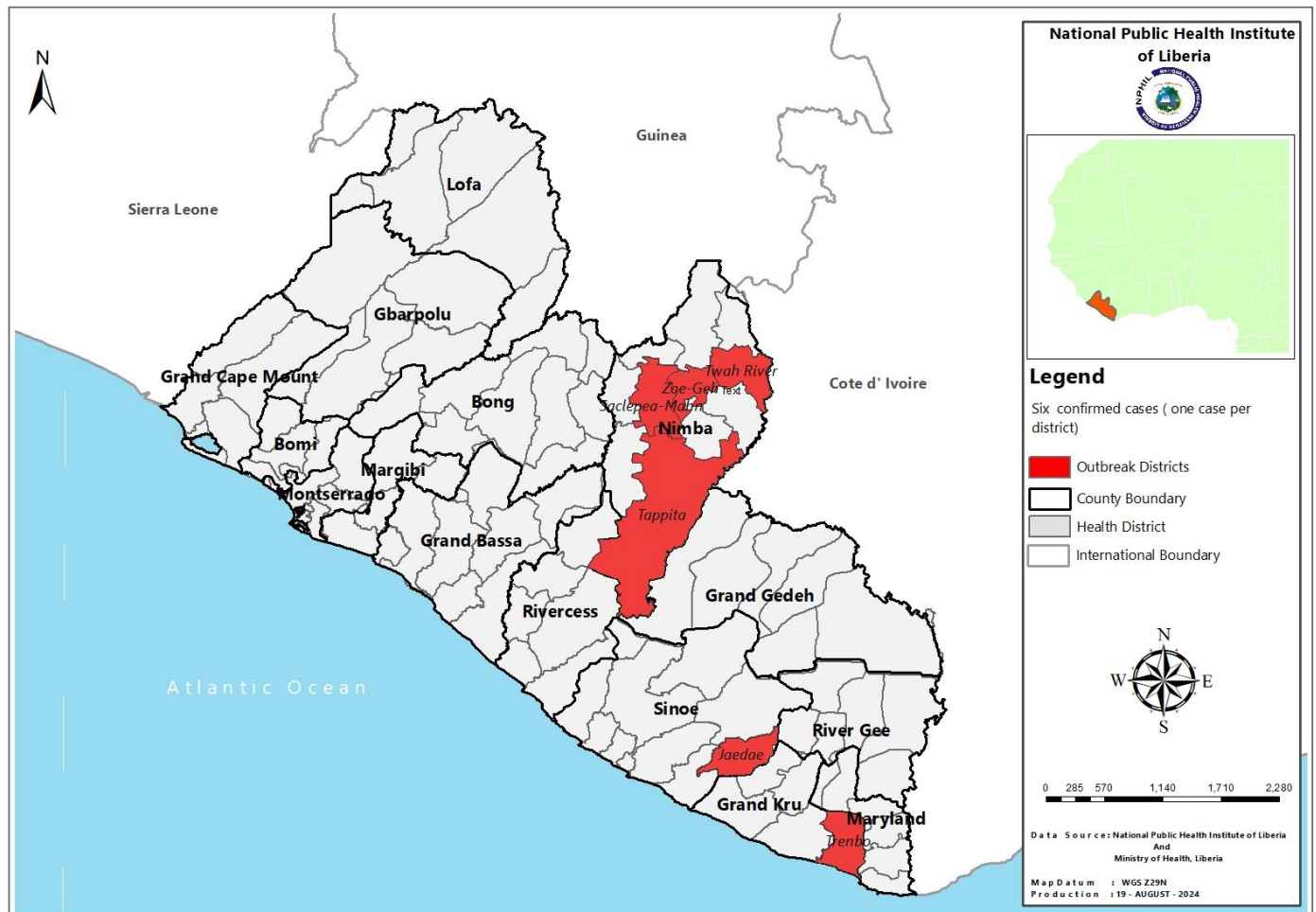


Figure 1: Distribution of Confirmed Mpox cases by Health District, week 1-33, 2024

## **Public Health Actions**

### **I. Coordination**

- PHEOCs have been activated in alert mode at national and sub-national levels
- Weekly coordination meetings are ongoing at the national level
- Conducted pillar coordination meeting
- Ongoing thematic meeting

### **II. Surveillance**

- Case definition reviewed and shared with counties referencing the IDSR technical guidelines (3rd Edition)
- Collaboration meetings held with Rider-4-Health and the NRL to enhance sample transportation, testing, and dissemination of results
- Surveillance work plan has been developed
- Active case search ongoing in affected communities

### **III. Case management**

- Isolation facilities identified
- Conducted Rapid need assessment for infrastructure readiness capacity, medicine and other countermeasures
- Conducted coordination meetings with the Emergency Management Service (EMS) to strengthen the referral system

### **IV. Infection Prevention Control(IPC)**

- Filled the readiness checklist and work plan to be submitted
- Ongoing rapid assessment of isolation units across the country

### **V. Laboratory**

- Conducted Stock-level assessment on reagents, consumables and supplies
- Updated SOP and protocols on sample management
- Conducted mentorship on sample acceptance and rejection
- The National Public Health Reference Laboratory continues testing of Mpox samples

### **V. Risk Communication and Community Engagement**

- Ongoing public awareness of Mpox (social media, radio, and television and Press Release)
- Reviewed and updated IEC/SBCC materials and messages
- RCCE Preparedness plan for Mpox was reviewed, updated, and submitted to the Incident
- The RCCE team is currently reviewing the SOP
- Ongoing Coordination at National and Subnational Levels

## **VI. Points of Entry**

- Provided refresher training on Mpox for designated POEs staff
- Conducted border stakeholder engagement on Mpox awareness
- Ongoing cross-border information sharing with neighbouring countries
- Provided updates on Mpox preparedness with border parties
- Conducted site visit at Robert International Airport (RIA) to assess travellers triaging facilities upon arrival
- IPC inventory is ongoing
- Ongoing entry screening for travellers from high-risk countries

## **VII. Key Challenges**

- Limited supply of IPC materials in affected counties
- Limited logistics support (gasoline, communication cards, fuel, etc.) to support active case search and contact tracing in the affected county
- Limited reagents and consumables
- No dedicated resources for Mpox

## **Nest Steps/Action Points**

- Finalization of the national preparedness plan and readiness checklist for submission
- Initiate implementation of the plan for high-priority activities, including training of healthcare workers.
- IPC to provide the stock level of medical logistics across the Country

## **Pictorial**



*Mpox Coordination Meeting held at the National PHEOC, August 20, 2024*

*For comments or questions, please contact*

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