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COVID-19 pandemic in Sierra Leone

6-7 minutes

COVID-19 pandemic in Sierra Leone	
Disease	COVID-19
Virus strain	SARS-CoV-2
Location	Sierra Leone
First outbreak	Wuhan, China
Arrival date	31 March 2020 (3 months, 2 weeks and 3 days)
Confirmed cases	1,688 (as of 17 July)
Active cases	404 (as of 17 July)
Recovered	1219 (as of 17 July)
Deaths	65 (as of 17 July)
Government website	
www.facebook.com/mic.gov.sl	

The [COVID-19 pandemic](#) was confirmed to have reached [Sierra Leone](#) on 31 March 2020.^[1]

Background^{[[edit](#)]}

On 12 January 2020, the [World Health Organization \(WHO\)](#) confirmed that a [novel coronavirus](#) was the cause of a respiratory illness in a cluster of people in [Wuhan City](#), Hubei Province, [China](#), which was reported to the WHO on 31 December 2019.^{[[2](#)][[3](#)]}

The [case fatality ratio](#) for COVID-19 has been much lower than [SARS of 2003](#),^{[[4](#)][[5](#)]} but the [transmission](#) has been significantly greater, with a significant total death toll.^{[[6](#)][[4](#)]}

Timeline^{[[edit](#)]}

COVID-19 cases in Sierra Leone (
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Deaths		Recoveries	Active cases
Mar		Apr	May
Jun		Jul	Last 15 days
Date		# of cases	# of deaths
2020-07-03		1,524(+0.4%)	62(+3.3%)
2020-07-04		1,533(+0.59%)	62(=)

2020-07-05		1,542(+0.59%)	62(=)
2020-07-06		1,547(+0.32%)	62(=)
2020-07-07		1,572(+1.6%)	63(+1.6%)
2020-07-08		1,584(+0.76%)	63(=)
2020-07-09		1,598(+0.88%)	63(=)
2020-07-10		1,613(+0.94%)	63(=)
2020-07-11		1,618(+0.31%)	63(=)

2020-07-12	1,635(+1.1%)	63(=)
2020-07-13	1,642(+0.43%)	63(=)
2020-07-14	1,651(+0.55%)	64(+1.6%)
2020-07-15	1,668(+1%)	64(=)
2020-07-16	1,678(+0.6%)	64(=)
2020-07-17	1,688(+0.6%)	65(+1.6%)

Sources:

- The figures are compiled from data published by The Ministry of Information and Communication^[7]

March 2020^[edit]

The president of Sierra Leone, [Julius Maada Bio](#), confirmed the country's first case of [coronavirus disease 2019](#) on 31 March, a 37-year-old man who traveled from [France](#) on 16 March and had been in isolation since.^[8]

April 2020^[edit]

On 1 April, Sierra Leone confirmed its second case which had no history of travel or contact with the country's first case.^[9] The government announced a 3-day lockdown starting on 5 April.^[10]

On 4 April, two more cases were confirmed and a further two on 5 April bringing the total to 6.^[11]

On 9 April, after the end of the three-day lockdown, the government announced additional measures. For an initial period of 14 days all inter-district travel is restricted, a curfew from 21:00 - 06:00 is in effect, shops are to sell essential items only and people are to stay at home unless they have good reason not to. Face masks are strongly encouraged, especially in public places.^[12]

On 12 April, a government press release stated that the last 3 of the 10 infected people had been undergoing self isolation and all 10 are in the treatment facility in a stable condition. In total 1,354 people had entered quarantine for 2 weeks and 736 had

completed the 2 weeks and been released.^[13]

On 19 April, the first 6 recoveries were reported, following negative test results for the virus. 29 people remained in a stable condition with the virus and 516 were in quarantine.

On 21 April, it was announced that President Julius Maada Bio was self isolating following a positive test for the virus by one of his body guards.^[14]

On 23 April, the first death of a 76-year-old male was reported,^[15] followed by a 69-year-old male later in the day. Both cases were in people taken to hospital and found to be infected after death. All those infected and in isolation remain in a stable condition.

On 24 April, a third death was reported of a 37-year-old male.

May 2020^[edit]

A new 3 day lockdown was announced starting on 3 May.

On 3 May, 1,341 people were in quarantine with 29 total recoveries.^[citation needed]

June 2020^[edit]

From 1 June, wearing of face masks became compulsory.^[16] Also on this day, frontline workers declared a strike because of unpaid salaries.^[17]

By 4 June, a total of 4,827 people had passed through quarantine, there were 468 female cases and 446 male cases.

On 13 June there were 563 female and 569 male cases reported. Karene district was the only district still reporting no cases and

Western Urban had the most at 667 cases.

On 21 June there were 642 female and 685 male cases. A total of 6,602 people had passed through quarantine. Karene district (in the north of the country) remained without a case whilst Freetown urban had a total of 718 cases.

July 2020[\[edit\]](#)

2 July, the government changed the international travel restrictions, banning all passenger flights until 15 July.

On 5 July there were 759 female cases and 783 male. 7,738 people had passed through quarantine. All districts had reported cases with Falaba having the lowest case count of 4 and Western Urban (Freetown) the highest at 763.

On 10 July the president announced that places of worship could reopen from 13 July. Air travel could resume from the same date.

Response[\[edit\]](#)

On 25 March, before the country's first case was confirmed, the government declared a 12-month state of emergency.^{[\[18\]](#)}

Entry into the country was restricted and religious gatherings prohibited. A three-day lockdown was announced to begin 5 April.^{[\[19\]](#)}

The [World Bank](#) announced a \$7.5 million grant to help Sierra Leone deal with the pandemic.^{[\[19\]](#)}

See also[\[edit\]](#)

- [COVID-19 pandemic in Africa](#)
- [COVID-19 pandemic by country and territory](#)

External Links[\[edit\]](#)

[Ministry of Health and Sanitation -Official COVID -19 Page](#)

References[\[edit\]](#)