



OFFICE OF THE MINISTER

REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA  
**MINISTRY OF HEALTH & SOCIAL WELFARE**

P. O. BOX 10 – 9009  
1000 MONROVIA 10, LIBERIA

**Regulations by the Minister of Health (the “Minister”) Governing  
The Control and Abatement of the Spread and Eradication of the Ebola Virus  
Disease (EVD) in Liberia, hereinafter,**

**THE ANTI-EBOLA REGULATION  
(MOHSW/R-001/2014)**

**Authority**

The Minister hereby promulgates this Regulation pursuant to the power and authority granted the Ministry under Chapter 30 of the Executive Law, Title 12, Liberia Code of Laws Revised (1972); and Part II, Chapters 11, 13, 14, 17 and Part V, Chapter 52 of the Public Health law, Title 33, Liberia Code of Laws Revised (1972).

**Statement of Purpose**

**WHEREAS**, the Ministry is statutorily mandated to prevent and abate the spread of infectious and communicable diseases which endanger public health or threaten conditions of public health importance; and

**WHEREAS**, the Ebola virus disease (EVD), since medically diagnosed in Liberia in March 2014, has resulted into several deaths and threatened the existence of our Nation-state; and

**WHEREAS**, it is necessary to promulgate regulations to prevent, contain, facilitate contact tracing and enhance public awareness, with the goal of effectively and efficiently controlling the conditions propelling the spread of the EVD and thereafter eradicating the said disease from Liberia;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, consistent with its statutory mandate as aforementioned, the Minister promulgates this Regulation-

## **Section 1**

### **Scope of Application**

This Regulation shall apply throughout the Republic of Liberia and is binding on all local and international partners involved in the response to EVD in Liberia.

## **Section 2**

### **Reporting suspected cases of EVD and deaths**

1. It shall be the duty of every citizen, resident or legal personality in Liberia to report any person within his/her household or community, suspected of or manifesting symptoms of EVD, to the nearest local health facility or authority, head of family, community. For the purpose of this Regulation, symptoms of EVD includes elevated body temperature, fever, vomiting, running stomach, persistent headache, bodily pains, skin rash, bleeding, and red eyes among others.
2. Until the Government of Liberia (GOL) declares that Liberia is EVD free, any and all deaths occurring in household or communities shall be reported to the local health authorities, head of family, and household or community leaders for onward reporting to healthcare facilities or authorities.
3. Any person who acquires knowledge of an unusual sickness or mortality among animals and birds, including in particular monkeys and bats, shall immediately report the fact to the nearest local health authority, local health facility, head of family, community or responsible person by the most expeditious means.

## **Section 3**

### **Duty of local health authority**

Every local health authority, local health facility, head of family, community or responsible person within the household or community shall immediately upon receipt of notification of the presence of a person suspected or symptomatic of EVD, pick up and transfer or facilitate the pickup and transfer of such person to the appropriate health facility for isolation.

## **Section 4**

### **Isolation of persons suspected of exposure Or exposed to EVD infection**

1. Any person suspected of or determined to be symptomatic of the EVD shall immediately be isolated by the nearest local healthcare facility or local authority until medically determined to be asymptomatic or to no

longer pose danger to public health or conditions of public health importance.

2. Local healthcare facilities and or authorities shall prevent any person or persons from leaving any area or building declared as EVD infected until all or any of the following, as deemed appropriate, shall have been done: medical examination, disinfection, disinfestations, inoculation, vaccination, or revaccination, immunization or passing a period in an observation camp or station.
3. The Minister may quarantine an entire community, district, county or region for a period of twenty one (21) days or beyond but not exceeding one month where in his/her judgment such quarantine will prevent the spread of EVD from or into the quarantined area.

### **Section 5**

#### **Duties and responsibilities of owners or persons in charge of Commercial facilities public buildings and residences**

1. Owners or persons in charge of public buildings, residences, and commercial facilities such as video clubs, cinemas, bars, night clubs, and restaurants, among others, shall not knowingly or negligently permit a person affected with or showing symptoms of EVD to enter into or work in such buildings, facilities and residences.
2. Owners or persons in charge of public buildings, residences or commercial facilities shall have the duty to place faucet attached bucket(s) containing chlorinated water or sanitizer and ensure that each person, prior to entry into such facility, washes his/her hands and his temperature. Any person presenting a temperature above 37.5 degrees Centigrade or 99.5 degrees Fahrenheit shall be considered as an IVD suspect, in which case the person shall be denied entrance into the building or commercial facility and referred to the nearest healthcare facility or authority.

### **Section 6**

#### **Duties and responsibilities of Government Ministries, Agencies, Public Corporations, County and local Administration, Domestic corporations and Non-Governmental organizations**

1. Government Ministries, Agencies, Public Corporations, County and local Administration, domestic corporations and Non-Governmental organizations among others, shall not knowingly or negligently permit a

- person affected with or showing symptoms of EVD to enter into or work in their buildings.
2. Government Ministries, Agencies, Public Corporations and County Administration, domestic corporations and Non-Governmental organizations among others, shall have the duty to place faucet attached bucket(s) containing chlorinated water or sanitizer and ensure that each person, prior to entry into such facility, washes his/her hands and his temperature taken. Any person presenting a temperature above 37.5 degrees Centigrade or 99.5 degrees Fahrenheit shall be considered as an IVD suspect, in which case the person shall be denied entrance into the building and referred to the nearest healthcare facility or authority.

### **Section 7**

#### **Disinfection of EVD infected premises and Destruction of movable assets**

Immediately upon the recovery, death or removal of an EVD confirmed case, healthcare authorities shall, without hindrance, disinfect the premises in which such illness or death occurred, and burn the furnishings, clothing and other personal belonging of the victim, as may be deemed appropriate.

### **Section 8**

#### **Vehicles and transport equipment to be disinfected**

1. Every owner, driver or other person in charge of a vehicle or other transport equipment, whether private or commercial, and used for transporting passengers shall immediately report to a local healthcare authority or healthcare facility for the disinfection of such vehicle or transport equipment free of charge, immediately after having knowledge that he/she has conveyed a person suffering from EVD. The said owner, driver, or person in charge is hereby prohibited from further using the vehicle or other transport equipment until the sanitary measures as herein provided have been fully and satisfactorily completed.
2. Until the GoL declares Liberia Ebola free, all vehicles operating in Liberia, whether commercial or private, shall comply with regulations promulgated by the Ministry of Transport regarding the seating and the number of passengers as part of measures to contain the EVD.

### **Section 9**

## **Power and Authority of the Minister to commandeer Unoccupied real property and materials**

During the EVD outbreak or the existence of its threat, it shall be lawful for the Minister, subject to the payment of just compensation, to require any person possessing or having charge of any land or any buildings or dwellings not occupied, or any person possessing or having charge of hospital facilities, equipment and supplies urgently required in connection with such outbreak, to hand over the use of such land, buildings, facilities and supplies to the Minister.

### **Section 10 Right of healthcare authorities to inspect suspected Premises and examine persons there.**

A healthcare provider may at any time enter and inspect any premises in which he/she has reasonable cause to believe that a person is suffering or suspected to be suffering from an EVD infection, or where one who has recently suffered resided, or has recently been present, or in which any inmate has recently been exposed to the said infection, and may medically examine any person on such premises for the purpose of ascertaining whether such person is suffering or has recently suffered, treated and discharged but is manifesting symptoms evidencing relapse or is of any such disease and may cause a postmortem examination to be made on any corpse discovered at such premises for the purpose of ascertaining if the cause of death has been the result of an EVD infection

### **Section 11 Acts likely to spread EVD Prohibited**

No person shall intentionally or negligently cause or promote the spread of EVD in any of the following ways:

1. By failure to observe, or by improper observance of applicable requirements of isolation, exclusion or treatment or failure to take the other precautions in caring for cases, including carriers, of communicable diseases as advised by the physicians in attendance on such cases; or
2. By unnecessarily exposing himself to other persons, knowing or ought to know himself to consciously manifesting EVD symptoms; or
3. By unnecessarily exposing a person in his charge or under his care to other persons, knowing such person infected by EVD or expressly manifesting its symptoms; or
4. By unnecessarily exposing himself or a person in his charge or under his care to another person who is known to be a case or carrier of communicable disease; or

5. By unnecessarily exposing without previous disinfection any furnishings, bedding, clothing or other personal belongings, rags or other things which he has reason to believe has been exposed to infection by EVD

**Section 12**  
**Prevention of introduction of the EVD**  
**To and from foreign countries**

Every person leaving or entering into Liberia from a foreign country by road, air or sea, shall comply with the Ebola containment measures in place at the port of entry.

**Section 13**  
**Precaution in handling deaths resulting from the EVD**

1. No person shall intentionally or negligently cause or promote the spread of the EVD by unnecessarily exposing to other persons the remains of a person in his/her charge if he knows or ought to have known such person to have been suffering from an EVD infection at the time of his/her death.
2. The person having such remains in his/her charge or under his/her care at the premises at which death occurred, shall notify the local healthcare authority within whose jurisdiction the death occurred of such death immediately upon learning of it.
3. Upon the death of an EVD victim, no person is allowed to perform any such religious or cultural rites such as touching, cleaning, and bathing of the deceased. Instead, the local healthcare authority under whose jurisdiction the death occurred shall be notified immediately. Simultaneously, the said authority shall immediately remove the demised person for proper burial, carry out thorough disinfection or disinfestations of the premises and professionally determine whether or not, to quarantine the person or persons exposed to the said infection until they pose no public health risk or condition of public health importance.

**Section 14**  
**Burial of the dead**

1. During the period of the EVD outbreak, it shall be the responsibility of the local health authority under whose jurisdiction a death has occurred, to generate the Vital Statistics consistent with the Ministry's policy.
2. Each healthcare personnel shall strictly follow the Ministry's protective protocol to prevent self EVD infection and creating public health risk of exposure to others.

3. Each local healthcare authority nationwide shall establish safe sites for burial giving consideration to public health concerns or conditions of public health importance.
4. All burials of remains during an EVD outbreak shall be immediate and carried out by or under the supervision of the local healthcare authority under whose jurisdiction the deaths are reported.
5. Each local healthcare authority nationwide shall duly exercise safe and prudent professional judgment in determining either to cremate a body or bury at a depth of six feet below the surface.
6. The Minister, subject to consultation with the Local Authority in the area concerned may designate any piece of land, either Government owned or subject to condemnation, to be a public cemetery. Such cemetery shall be maintained, controlled and managed by such Local Authority in accordance with the rules and regulations promulgated by the Minister.

### **Section 15 Restrictions on Assembly**

Acknowledging that bodily contacts between persons provide a direct mode for the transmission of EVD, all public rallies, demonstrations, and gatherings in public areas including beaches, except for political rallies during the campaign and election period, are hereby prohibited until the Government of Liberia (GOL) declares Liberia EVD free. Notwithstanding, all political rallies shall be held only in keeping with the guidelines and regulations of the National Elections Commission and the Preventive measures put in place by Government.

### **Section 16 Violations and Penalties**

Any person who violates any of the provisions of this Regulation, shall upon conviction, be liable to a fine or imprisonment as provided under the Public Health Law.

### **Section 17 Enforcement**

This Regulation shall be enforced throughout Liberia. The Local Authority from time to time may request the Minister to institute through the Minister of Justice any prosecution or legal proceedings for or in respect to the violation of any such rules<sup>1</sup>

**Section 18**  
**Non-preemption**

Nothing in this Regulation shall be deemed to preempt the enactment of further anti-EVD restrictions within Republic of Liberia.

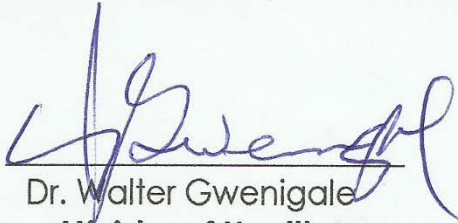


**Section 19**  
**Effective Date**

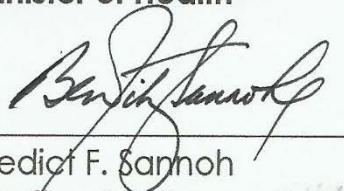
This Regulation shall take effect from the date of Publication.

**Done in the City of Monrovia, this 20<sup>th</sup>. Day of November, A.D. 2014**

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

  
Dr. Walter Gwenigale  
**Minister of Health**

Attested to: \_\_\_\_\_

  
Cllr. Benedict F. Sannoh  
**Acting Minister of Justice & Attorney General**

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

  
Madam Ellen Johnson Sirleaf  
**PRESIDENT**