



GOVERNMENT OF SIERRA LEONE
MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND SANITATION
4TH FLOOR, YOUYI BUILDING
BROOKFIELDS, FREETOWN

PRESS RELEASE

Suspected COVID-19 Vaccine Related Death under Investigation

Freetown, Thursday, 24th June, 2021

ALERT: The Ministry of Health and Sanitation has received information of the sudden death of a 50-year-old female healthcare worker attached to PCM Hospital on the Tuesday June 22, 2021. The female healthcare worker (**name withheld to maintain confidentiality**) had received her first dose of COVID-19 vaccine on Monday 21st June.

The Ministry of Health and Sanitation takes any potential side effect of the vaccine seriously and is conducting, in collaboration with NaCOVERC, further investigations to determine whether this incident is related to the administered COVID-19 vaccine. The Ministry will inform the public as further information becomes available.

The deceased was a known chronic asthmatic on medication. She experienced asthmatic attacks especially on exposure to cold weather which was usually relieved by medication at home (Inhalers).

Monday, June 21, 2021: The healthcare worker, felt normal and without any coercion or persuasion voluntarily received her first dose of COVID-19 vaccine at exactly **8:57 am**. She worked throughout the day with no reported concerns.

Tuesday, June 22, 2021: The healthcare worker, went through her normal work routine without reporting any health-related concerns. That evening, she returned home and ate dinner. During dinner, at about **5:30 PM**, she reported chest heaviness, pain and cough. As usual, she was given her inhaler but the condition worsened. The family decided to take her to hospital. However, she died at **6:30 PM** before reaching the hospital.

The Ministry of Health and Sanitation has systematically investigated all incidents suspected to relate to the administration of the COVID-19 vaccine and brought to its attention. Available data shows that these vaccines are safe and effective. Since the introduction of the vaccine in Sierra Leone in March 15, over 105,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccines have been administered across the country, with no incident associated with the administration of the vaccine.

The public is encouraged to report any potential serious side-effect by calling 09 91 17 117 or 117 and in case of serious sickness or emergency to, as always, seek medical assistance immediately.

For more information, please contact:

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