



# SITUATIONAL REPORT

## Unexplained Cluster of Health Event: Sinoe County, 3 May 2017

### New Update

As of 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2017, **2 new cases** were seen in Sinoe County from 2 communities in Greenville Districts. This brings the total to 28 cases and 12 deaths (10) deaths in Sinoe County and two (2) deaths in Montserrado County). There are six (6) live cases in admission, stable and undergoing treatment.

2 whole blood samples were collected from Sinoe County pending lab confirmation to rule out Viral Hemorrhagic Fevers (VHF).

### Situational Overview

On Tuesday, 25<sup>th</sup> April 2017 at 10:30 GMT, Sinoe County Health Team (SCHT) notified the National Public Health institute of Liberia (NPHIL) and the Ministry of Health (MoH) of a cluster of unexplained health event involving 14 cases with 8 deaths in Greenville City. According to SCHT, symptoms presented include fever, headache, diarrhea, mental confusion, vomiting and abdominal pain. This event was preceded by accounts of funeral events (wake, funeral, repasse) that commenced on the 21<sup>st</sup> of April 2017.

On the 26<sup>th</sup> April 2017, National Rapid Response Team (NRRT) along partners (WHO, CDC, AFENET) was deployed to support county led response.

### Probable Exposure

To determine the probable exposure for the ongoing outbreak, we conducted a 1:2 unmatched case control study with 25 cases and 50 controls. The Preliminary analyses showed that those who attended the wake were 22 times more likely to be a case compared to those who did not attend the wake (P<0.05). Further analyses showed association with food served at the wake ie. Tea, Bread, and Egg Nog. The strongest association was with Tea, with an Odds Ratio of 11.2 (P<0.05). There was no significant association observed with other potential exposures analysed.

The data are reflected in the table below.

Exposure	Odds Ratio
Attendance at overnight Wake on April 21, 2017	22.15 (95% CI 2.78 – 176.61)
Consumption of Tea served at Wake	11.23 (95% CI 3.61 – 34.96)
Consumption of Bread (Sandwich) served at Wake	3.27 (95% CI 1.16 – 9.18)
Consumption of Egg Nog served at Wake	6.00 (95% CI 1.07 – 33.53)

## Public Health Actions

### *Coordination*

- Ongoing coordination at both national and county level(NEPRC/CEPRC)
- The national RRT provide ongoing support to Sinoe county
- UNICEF expressed interest to support social mobilization and heightened surveillance at community level

### *Surveillance and contact tracing*

- Two (2) new cases reported from Sinoe. This brings the total to 28 cases and 12 deaths (10) deaths in Sinoe County and two (2) deaths in Montserrado County).CFR 43%
- Standard Case definition has been finalized and disseminated
- Active case search is on-going in the affected and circumscribed communities in Sinoe and Montserrado Counties.
- Heightened surveillance at community and health facilities
- Harmonization and validation of attendees and line list are ongoing

### *Case Management*

- Two (2) new admissions to F J. Grante Hospital. This brings the total in admission to six (6) cases
- Admitted patients are stable and responding to treatment.
- Nine bed isolation facilities prepared for response in Montserrado-(Redemption(5), ELWA(4)
- No new death has been reported for Sinoe and Montserrado. Total death recorded twelve (12). Sinoe (10) and Montserrado (2)

### *Social Mobilization and Community engagement*

- Congoing health education in five schools
- Planned radio talk show was conducted in Sinoe county
- Ongoing community engagement and awareness on hygiene promotion in nineteen communities in Sinoe
- UNICEF plan to support Sinoe to scale up community engagement and surveillance activity at the community level

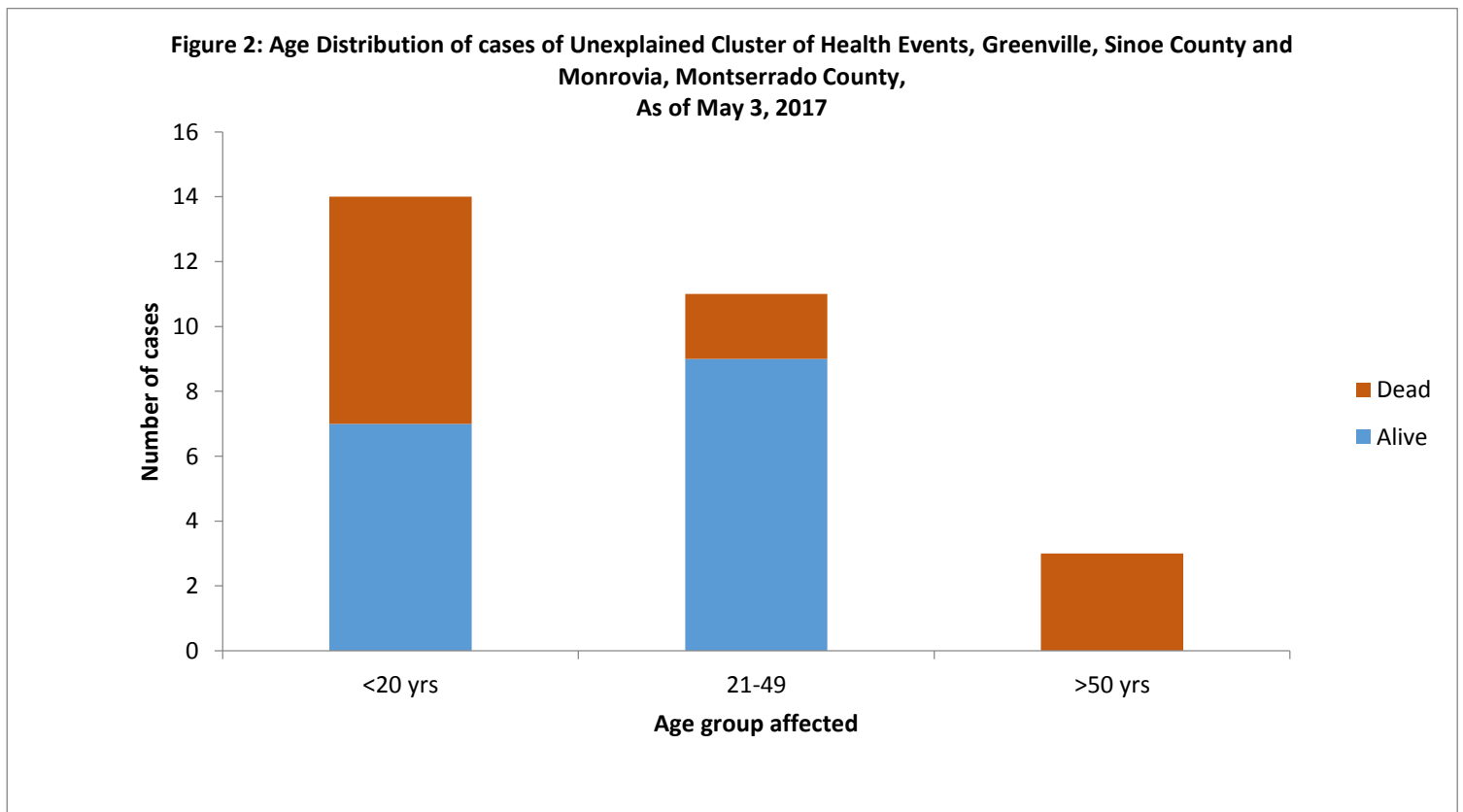
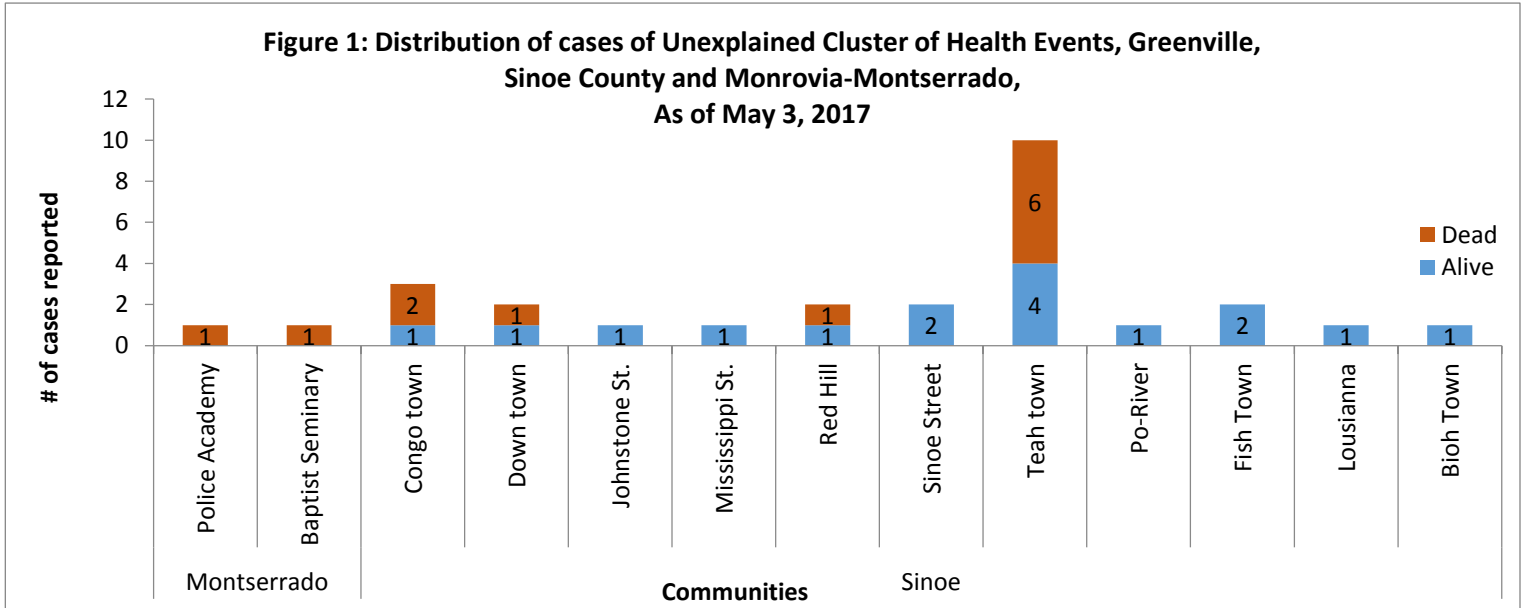
### *Laboratory investigation*

- Two samples (blood) collected bringing the total to 29:
  - 8 oral swabs
  - 11 whole blood
  - 4 urine
  - 4 cardiac fluid
  - 1 rectal swab
- Eighteen (18) tested **negative for Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) and lassa fever** and others pending.

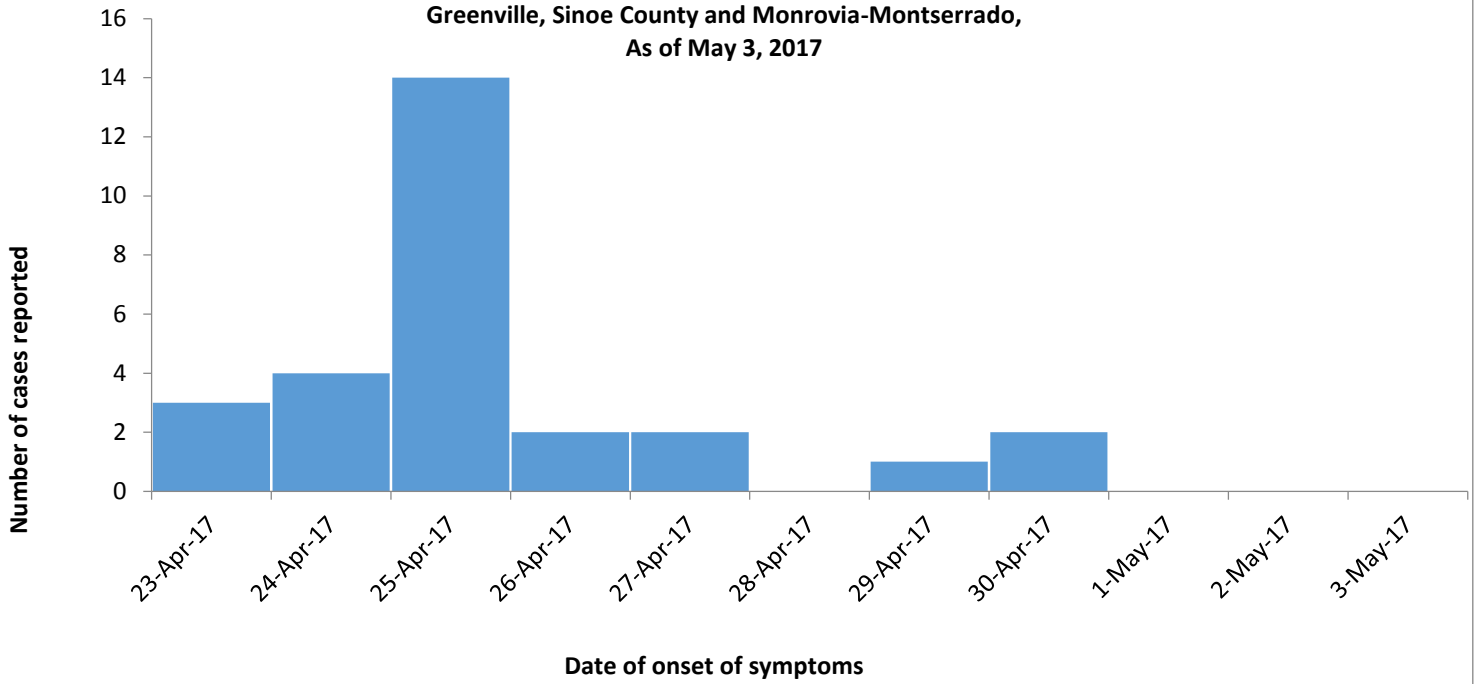
- Aliquots of 11 specimens shipped to CDC-Atlanta for toxicological testing and results pending.
- Additional efforts to send aliquots by MSF and WHO for further investigation

*Dead body management*

- The two bodies are being preserved in Montserrado for autopsy
- WHO has finalized the process of deploying a pathologist to conduct autopsy on the corpses in Monrovia.



**Figure 3: Distribution of cases of Unexplained Cluster of Health Events, Greenville, Sinoe County and Monrovia-Montserrado, As of May 3, 2017**



**Figure 4. Geographical distribution of reported Unexplained Cluster of illness and deaths in Montserrado and Sinoe Counties, Liberia, as of 03 May, 2017**



## Planned Action Points/Recommendations

### County

- Stakeholders to be involved with social mob activities in their various communities.
- Sinoe County Health team to hold radio talk show for information dissemination to allay fear.
- Traditional, and Spiritual healers to coordinate with the county health team in responding to this outbreak
- Re-enforce infection prevention and control measures in all health facilities.
- Visit and discuss with spiritual healer who was reported to be treating cases that attended the funeral.
- Update all line list with required variables to construct the infection chain.
- Continue with community engagement and reinforce hand washing in affected communities.
- Inquire about unusual animal deaths in the communities.

### National

- Conduct press briefing to update media houses and ensure consistent messages to minimize fear and panic.
- Continue to provide technical, operational and logistical support for the on-going response in Sinoe and Montserrado Counties.
- Conduct autopsy on the remaining corpses in Monrovia.
- Work with counties to review and validate contact and attendees
- Follow up on aliquots results

## Challenges

- Establishing a full list of all attendees from outside and within Sinoe County who participated in the funeral events.
- Additional Laboratory testing is required to identify other potential causative agents of event.
- Inadequate disclosure of information related to the funeral event by family members and residents in Sinoe County

**For comments or questions, please contact**

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Description	Summary table of unexplained illness and death as of May 3, 2017							
	Sinoe	Montserrat	Rivercess	Grand Kru	Grand Gedeh	Maryland	Grand Bassa	Total
<b>New Live Case/s May 3, 2017</b>								
New Case/s (Suspected)	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
New Case/s (Confirmed)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total suspected cases	24	2	0	0	0	0	0	26
Cumulative	26	2	0	0	0	0	0	28
Newly Reported Cases in HCW	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cumulative cases among HCW	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Newly Reported deaths in HCW	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cumulative deaths among HCW	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
New admissions in Treatment Unit today	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Total no. currently in Treatment Units	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
Total discharges, alive	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
Cumulative admission/isolation, alive	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	11
Newly reported deaths	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cumulative death in confirmed cases	10	2	0	0	0	0	0	12
<b>Case fatality Rate (CFR)</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>43%</b>
Specimens collected (May 3, 2017)	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Specimens pending for testing	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
Total specimens tested	24	2	0	0	0	0	0	26
Total sample tested for EVD and Lassa Fever	16	2	0	0	0	0	0	18
<b>Total specimens collected(as of May 3, 2017)</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>29</b>

Figure 5.

