Monrovia, Liberia, February 11, 2020: The National Public Health Institute of Liberia (NPHIL) and the Ministry of Health (MoH) wish to emphasize that all Liberians arriving from China and other countries with widespread and active human to human transmission of 2019-nCoV will be placed under precautionary observation for 14 days upon arrival to Liberia. This initiative is intended to save guard the country against the virus.

At the same time, Liberians are strongly discouraged from applying for visa to travel to China as this could put you and the country at risk.

On Monday, February 10, 2020, our surveillance system tracked an alert case at the RIA. The case is a Liberian who travel from China and transited in Ghana. In Ghana, he presented with high temperature and was pick up by the Ghanaian authority. There was laboratory test on him and the test was negative. The Ghanaian authority allowed him to travel to Liberia. He arrived at the RIA still with high body temperature, and was picked up by our surveillance systems and placed at the Precautionary Observation Center (POC). Initial test conducted so far has proven negative. He is in isolation pending another laboratory test of the coronavirus.

It has also come to our attention that Liberians business people traveling from China are avoiding to be placed under precautionary observation. As a result, they are landing in Sierra Leone and travelling by road via Bo Waterside to enter into Liberia.

Meanwhile, West African Health Ministers are expected to meet in Bamako, Mali this week to discuss on strengthening Africa surveillance and preparedness against the 2019-nCoV (coronavirus).

As Liberia strengthens its surveillance and prepare against the 2019-nCoV (coronavirus) outbreak, the country continues to respond to Lassa fever outbreaks. Recently, two teams from the Central Office traveled to Bong and Grand Bassa Counties to support response activities. The teams supported the counties in the areas of Community Engagement and Risk Communication, Case Management, Infection Prevention and Control (IPC), Dead Body Management, Environmental Management and Victor Control.