



SIERRA LEONE GOVERNMENT
NATIONAL COVID-19 EMERGENCY RESPONSE CENTRE (NACOVERC)
FREETOWN

Public Notice 01

Freetown 3rd July, 2021

The public would recall the national broadcast by His Excellency Rtd. Brigadier Julius Maada Bio on 1st July, 2021, regarding measures to suppress the third wave of COVID-19. The broadcast, among other things, has suspended congregational worship in churches and mosques for one month from 2nd July, 2021; and equally directs that attendance at funerals, weddings and other social events shall be limited to no more than fifty persons.

Being mindful of our collective responsibility to keep risks very low, NaCOVERC wishes to issue the following advisory:

1. Anyone wishing to have a wedding or funeral ceremony in a church or mosque, ***must apply in writing*** to the Operations Pillar Lead, NaCOVERC (in the case of Western Area) or the DiCOVERC Coordinator (in the case of provincial Districts).
2. The application will include the name and address of the place of worship, the name and contact number of the Pastor or Imam-in-charge, the date and time of the wedding or funeral, an undertaking to comply with the measures, and such additional information that may be useful.
3. NaCOVERC/DiCOVERC will carefully and expeditiously assess applications received, and satisfy itself that the conditions to be satisfied are fully met before any eventual approval is granted.
4. No church or mosque shall allow the conduct of a wedding or funeral ceremony at its premises without the knowledge and prior written approval of NaCOVERC/DiCOVERC.
5. No wedding or funeral that has received the express written approval of NaCOVERC/DiCOVERC shall be held with more than fifty (50) persons in attendance (including the clergy)
6. Weddings may take place in private premises, with no more than fifty (50) people. Organizers of such events are encouraged to hold them outdoors, with face masking, social distancing and hand-hygiene protocols strictly enforced.
7. Families may also make private funeral arrangements with funeral parlours, where mourners will not exceed fifty (50) persons, and all COVID-19 protocols strictly observed. Where funeral parlours may not have the advantage of space, their managements may wish to revise the attendance downwards to prevent cross-infections.
8. Funeral ceremonies at home are strongly discouraged. Funeral parlours have the requisite expertise for preservation of corpses and safe burial procedures.
9. NaCOVERC will soon establish an online portal where applications will be uploaded.

Visit our websites www.mic.gov.sl and www.dhse.gov.sl Dial *468# or SMS 468 for COVID self-checks, tips and updates



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10. Crowds should not be permitted to gather outside places of worship or the funeral parlour during funerals or weddings.
11. In the case of funerals, processions to the cemetery should be discouraged by the family of the deceased. However, if such a procession must take place, only the 50 people allowed at the funeral should be allowed to take part in such a procession.
12. All places of worship and funeral parlours are advised to comply strictly with the above directives. Failure to do so will result in punitive action.
13. NaCOVERC and our respective DICOVERCs stand ready to support safe wedding, funeral and other social events. Let us therefore work together to keep risks VERY LOW.

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Solomon Jamiru Esq
Spokesperson



Hon. Sheku F. Bangura
NaCOVERC Chairman