

**RADIO-PRESS RELEASE**

The Minister of Public Health, Dr. MANAOUDA Malachie, informs the public that following the occurrence of several deaths in Equatorial Guinea, on the border with the South region, particularly the Ambam, Olamze and Kye -Ossi Health Districts, an outbreak of Marburg Virus Disease has been confirmed by the Equatoguinean authorities.

Marburg Virus Disease is highly contagious and virulent. It causes hemorrhagic fever, with a fatality rate of up to 90%. It is marked by fever, headache, behavioral disorder, general malaise accompanied by massive hemorrhaging.

Faced with this situation, which constitutes a major risk of importation of this disease and its possible spread within the Country, the Minister of Public Health, in collaboration with the Administrations concerned and Technical and Financial Partners, is continuing concerted actions, initiated a few days ago upon notification of the alert. These include:

- Strengthening epidemiological surveillance ;
- Multi-sector investigations and active search for cases and contact persons in the risk areas ;
- Community awareness and mobilization activities.

The Minister of Public Health, once more invites the nursing staff to immediately notify and isolate any suspected case and avoid moving them. Compliance with infection prevention and control rules must be respected.

He also invites them to call the toll-free number **1510** in the event of any death in these areas, or any person presenting any of the symptoms mentioned above.

Given that transmission occurs through contact with an infected animal, direct contact with body fluids of an infected person and with contaminated surfaces and materials, Dr. MANAOUDA Malachie reiterates to the populations on the border with Equatorial Guinea in particular and to the entire country in general, compliance with standard hygiene rules, notably:

- **Wash hands regularly with clean running water and soap, especially after handling an animal or animal product, or after taking care of a person with symptoms of haemorrhagic fever ;**
- **Avoid contact with body fluids of a sick person, including sexual intercourse ;**
- **Avoid contact with wild animals that are sick or found dead ;**
- **Wash food and eat them well-cooked and hot.**

In any event, the Minister of Public Health reassures Cameroonians that the situation is under control and currently, no case has been notified in the country. He therefore counts on the discipline and civility of the populations to avoid any possible importation of this disease.



Yaounde,

14 FEB 2023

The Minister of Public Health,

Dr. MANAOUDA Malachie