



**GOVERNMENT OF SIERRA LEONE
NATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH AGENCY
(NPHA)**



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PRESS RELEASE

Government Responds to Reports of Unexplained Skin Lesions Among School Children in Bombali District

Freetown, 18th November 2025

For Immediate Release

The National Public Health Agency (NPHA), in collaboration with the Ministry of Health (MoH), is currently investigating reports of unexplained skin lesions affecting 28 school-going children aged 15 to 17 years in Safroko-Limba Chiefdom, Bombali District.

A rapid response team—comprising epidemiologists, infection prevention and control (IPC) experts, and laboratory scientists from both district and national levels—has already been deployed to the community. Their mission includes:

- Conducting detailed investigations to determine the cause of the symptoms
- Identifying suspected cases and tracing close contacts
- Implementing immediate infection prevention and control measures
- Collecting samples for urgent laboratory testing in Freetown

Public Advisory

The NPHA encourages the public to remain calm and supportive as investigations continue. Community members are urged to report any unusual skin conditions—particularly among children and adolescents—to the nearest health facility or by calling the toll-free hotline 117.

The public is strongly advised to avoid self-medication and refrain from using traditional remedies for unfamiliar skin conditions. Early reporting and appropriate medical care are essential to protect individuals and limit further transmission.

While laboratory results are pending, there is no cause for alarm. The Government of Sierra Leone is taking all necessary steps to investigate, manage, and contain the situation swiftly and effectively.

We call on all communities to cooperate fully with health teams and to adhere to any public health guidance provided in the coming days.

Together, we can prevent the spread of infections and safeguard our communities.

Signed:

Brig. Gen. Prof. Foday Sahr
Executive Director, NPHA

