

GHANA ASSOCIATION OF MEDICAL LABORATORY SCIENTISTS

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PUBLIC RELATIONS UNIT

P.O BOX KB 144
KORLE-BU, ACCRA
Cell: 02446223560242364175
Tel/Fax (+233)030 2680011
Email: info@gamls.org
Website: www.gamls.org

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PRESS RELEASE

GHANA ASSOCIATION OF MEDICAL LABORATORY SCIENTISTS (GAMLS) STATEMENT ON THE OUTBREAK OF CEREBROSPINAL MENINGITIS (CSM) IN NORTHERN GHANA

The Ghana Association of Medical Laboratory Scientists (GAMLS) has received reports of a recent outbreak of cerebrospinal meningitis (CSM) in parts of Northern Ghana. As medical laboratory professionals, we are deeply concerned about the potential spread of this highly infectious and life-threatening disease.

Cerebrospinal meningitis is a critical condition characterized by inflammation of the meninges—the protective membranes surrounding the brain and spinal cord. If not promptly diagnosed and treated, CSM can lead to severe complications, including permanent neurological damage and death.

In response to this outbreak, GAMLS underscores the vital role of medical laboratory testing in the early detection, accurate diagnosis, and effective management of CSM. Our dedicated members across the country remain committed to delivering reliable and timely laboratory results to support clinical decision-making and patient care.

To help control the spread of CSM, GAMLS recommends the following measures:

1. **Enhanced Surveillance:** Strengthening disease surveillance systems is essential for early detection, monitoring, and rapid response to CSM outbreaks.
2. **Scaling Up Laboratory Testing:** Prompt and accurate laboratory testing is crucial for diagnosing CSM. We call on healthcare facilities to prioritize laboratory diagnostics and urge relevant authorities to ensure the provision of necessary logistics and resources to laboratories, particularly in the affected regions.
3. **Strict Infection Prevention and Control (IPC):** Adherence to robust IPC protocols within healthcare settings is key to preventing the transmission of CSM among patients and healthcare workers.
4. **Public Education and Awareness:** GAMLS urges the government, public health institutions, and other stakeholders to intensify public health education campaigns focused on CSM prevention, early recognition of symptoms, and the importance of seeking timely medical attention.

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CLINICAL AND LABORATORY STANDARDS INSTITUTE (CLSI)
GHANA FEDERATION OF ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONS (GFAHP)

GAMLS also takes this opportunity to advocate for the strengthening and advancement of microbiological laboratory capacities nationwide. Enhancing laboratory infrastructure and capabilities will improve outbreak detection, surveillance, and response efforts, not only for CSM but also for other emerging infectious diseases.

We reaffirm our commitment to supporting the national response to this outbreak and call on all stakeholders to collaborate effectively to mitigate the spread of cerebrospinal meningitis in Ghana. Together, we can safeguard the health and well-being of our communities.



DR. GLORIA AMEGATCHER
PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER
+233 54 298 2440