

In case of reply the number and the date of this letter should be quoted.

OUR CORE VALUES

- People-Centered
- Professionalism
- Team work
- Innovation
- Discipline
- Integrity



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Your Ref. No.

31st March, 2023

ALL REGIONAL DIRECTORS OF HEALTH SERVICE

NEW INVASIVE MOSQUITO FOUND

The World Health Organization sent out an alert on the invasion of Africa by a malaria transmitting mosquito, *Anopheles stephensi* in 2019. *Anopheles stephensi*, is a competent and highly efficient vector of *Plasmodium falciparum* and *P. vivax*. It can practically breed in almost all sources of water which is not the traditional breeding sites of the common *Anopheles* species, particularly in urban areas. It survives extremely high temperatures during the dry season, when malaria transmission usually declines. **It is known to be very invasive, spread fast and adaptive to a myriad of climatic conditions.** *An. stephensi* has been shown to be resistant to multiple insecticide classes in many locations, including Africa, posing challenges to its control.

Until 2011, the reported distribution of *An. stephensi* was confined to certain countries of South Asia and parts of the Arabian Peninsula. Since then, the vector has been collected in Djibouti (2012), Ethiopia (2016), Sudan (2016), Sri Lanka (2017), Somalia (2019), and most recently Nigeria (2020) and Yemen (2021). As part of Ghana's malaria surveillance system, vectors are monitored across the country through designated sentinel sites. The presence of *An. stephensi* was confirmed in March 2023 from samples taken in Tuba and Dansoman, all urban areas of the Greater Accra region.

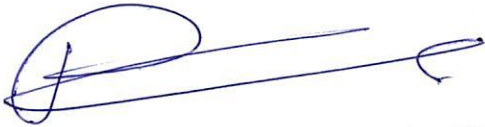
In the current plans of the country to eliminate malaria, it is imperative that we put in efforts to curtail the impact of *An. stephensi* so as not to derail the gains made. A national task force has been established to advise on strategies to stop the spread of *Anopheles stephensi* and minimize its impact.

Kindly note that the following are to be implemented to fight the vector:

1. Source reduction: removal of water collection points in and around homes and communities to minimize the breeding sites for this invasive mosquito
2. Mosquito bite prevention
 - a. Use insecticide treated nets to protect themselves against indoor mosquito bites
 - b. Personal Protection: Use repellants and wear clothing which protects them against mosquito bites when outside their homes
 - c. Screen doors and windows of rooms

Regional and District Directors are expected to supervise these activities and ensure public compliance to the above actions.

Counting on your cooperation.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a large, stylized initial 'P' followed by a long horizontal stroke and a small flourish at the end.

DR. PATRICK KUMA-ABOAGYE
DIRECTOR-GENERAL

Cc: All Metro/Municipal District Directors of Health Service