



Republic of Liberia
Liberia Maritime Authority
P. O. Box 10-9042
1000 Monrovia 10, Liberia



MARINE OPERATIONS NOTE 08/2014
SUBJECT: EBOLA VIRUS DISEASE ADVISORY FOR ALL SEAPORTS IN
THE REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA

Ref: World Health Organization
U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
SOS International
Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, Republic of Liberia

To: All domestic vessels' owners, operators, agents, vessels calling at Liberian seaports, stevedores, and other port users.

The outbreak of Ebola in Liberia, Sierra Leone, Guinea, and Nigeria has gained global attention to the extent the World Health Organization (WHO) has declared the outbreak in the four countries as "a global health emergency". Prior to WHO's declaration, the Government of the Republic of Liberia had already declared the Ebola outbreak in the country as a "national health emergency".

Basic information about Ebola:

- a. Infection is by **direct contact** (through broken skin or mucous membranes) with blood or body fluids (urine, saliva, feces, vomit, semen, breast milk) of a sick person or animal or by contact with contaminated objects (such as needles).
- b. Symptoms may include the following: fever (usually considered by the Liberian Ministry of Health and Social Welfare to be 37.5 degrees Celsius (axillary) or higher, but may vary based on how the temperature is measured), severe headache, muscle pain, diarrhea, vomiting, stomach pain, or unexplained bleeding or bruising.
- c. Symptoms may appear anywhere from 2 to 21 days after exposure to blood or body fluids of an infected person or animal, although 8 to 10 days is most common. A person infected with Ebola is not contagious until symptoms appear.
- d. There is no specific treatment or vaccine available.
- e. Early recognition of Ebola is important for providing appropriate patient care and preventing the spread of infection.
- f. Ebola virus outside the body can be easily destroyed with heat, alcohol-based products, and bleach or bleaching powder at appropriate concentrations.

Preventive measures:

- a. Avoid contact with ill persons experiencing the following symptoms: fever, headache, muscle pain, diarrhea, vomiting, stomach pain, unexplained bleeding or bruising. If direct contact (within 3 feet) with ill persons is unavoidable, use appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) including face mask, waterproof gown, eye protection such as face shield or goggles, waterproof disposable gloves. If exposure to large amounts of body fluids is expected, rubber boots or booties (shoe covers) are recommended.
- b. Avoid all contact with blood and body fluids and any items that may have come in contact with an infected person's blood or body fluids.
- c. Avoid contact with bats and nonhuman primates or blood, fluids, and raw meat prepared from these animals.
- d. Avoid handling the body of someone who has died from Ebola.
- e. Seek urgent medical attention if you feel sick (fever, headache, muscle aches, diarrhea, vomiting, stomach pain, unexplained bleeding or bruising).
- f. Avoiding routine social physical contact (e.g., shaking hands, hugging) may prevent spread of Ebola or other illnesses from sick persons.
- g. Wash your hands regularly with chlorinated water. If chlorinated water is not available and hands are not visibly dirty, use a waterless alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- h. Handle animals with heavy-duty gloves and protective clothing.
- i. Wear impermeable disposable gloves while cleaning the ship and throw used gloves away in BIOHAZARD containers when cleaning is done or if they become soiled or damaged during cleaning. If cleaning areas are contaminated by blood or body fluids, also wear face mask, eye protection, impermeable gown, and rubber boots or booties (shoe covers).
- j. When using personal protective equipment, remove equipment carefully to avoid contaminating hands or clothing, and immediately wash hands.

Mandatory measures to be observed at all seaports and port facilities:

To prevent the further spread of the deadly Ebola virus within the territorial limits of the Republic of Liberia and support its subsequent elimination, the below measures **MUST BE** strictly observed and adhered to without any exception:

- a. All port users **MUST** wash their hands at every entry and exit access point. **HAND WASHING IS REQUIRED TO ACCESS PORT AND PORT FACILITIES.**
- b. All port users (including drivers) **MUST** disembark from vehicles to wash their hands and be screened for fever upon entry to the port or port facilities;
- c. All port users **MUST** wear appropriate long **SLEEVES** and long **PANTS**.
- d. All port users for whom contact (within 3 feet) with ill persons is unavoidable (e.g., health staff) **MUST** have their own PPE to gain access. Required PPE for persons who have contact (within 3 feet) with ill persons includes: face mask, waterproof gown, eye protection such as face shield or goggles, waterproof disposable gloves, and rubber boots or booties (shoe coverings). **SHARING OF PPE IS NOT ALLOWED.**

- e. All soiled or damaged PPE should be properly disposed of in a BIOHAZARD container for appropriate safe disposal (e.g., incineration).
- f. No boarding of vessels will be allowed except by authorized personnel performing official duties. All authorized personnel boarding vessels must put on impermeable disposal gloves at the gangway before boarding the vessel and remove the gloves upon disembarking.
- g. All port users MUST seek urgent medical attention if sick (fever, headache, muscle pain, diarrhea, vomiting, stomach pain, unexplained bleeding or bruising). They should contact the medical facility in advance if possible, and avoid contact with others while traveling to seek care.

All vessels calling at Liberian seaports and authorized personnel boarding vessels must observe the below measures:

- a. Only authorized personnel performing official duties shall have access to inbound and outbound vessels;
- b. All authorized personnel MUST wash their hands with chlorinated water at the gangway before embarking and disembarking the vessel.
- c. All authorized personnel MUST wear long sleeves and long pants. Personnel must put on impermeable disposal gloves at the gangway before boarding the vessel and remove the gloves upon disembarking.
- d. All port users for whom contact (within 3 feet) with ill persons is unavoidable (e.g., health staff) MUST have their own PPE to gain access. Required PPE for persons who have contact (within 3 feet) with ill persons includes: face mask, waterproof gown, eye protection such as face shield or goggles, waterproof disposable gloves, and rubber boots or booties (shoe coverings). **SHARING OF PPE IS NOT ALLOWED.**
- e. All soiled or damaged PPE should be properly disposed of in a biohazard container;
- f. No shore leave/pass will be issued to any crewmember except in cases of medical evacuation at which time the Port Doctor MUST be contacted for further action.
- g. No crew changes will be allowed until further notice.
- h. All vessels coming into port MUST report passengers/crew members experiencing any of the following symptoms [fever, headache, muscle pain, diarrhea, vomiting, stomach pain, unexplained bleeding or bruising] prior to coming into port.

By Directive of the Commissioner/CEO of the Liberia Maritime Authority, Hon. Binyah C. Kesselly, this 29th day of August 2014.

Useful contact points to report suspected Ebola cases at Liberian seaports:

Ebola hotline: 4455

Monrovia – MRCC: +231 (0) 777 290 158 / e-mail: MRMRCC@lma-liberia.com

Port Clinic: +231 (0) 886 516 869

Port Safety/Security: +231 (0) 886 613 407 / e-mail: gbassinc2@aol.com