



Associated British Ports South Wales

NOTICE TO MARINERS

No 23 of 2014

Notice from Public Health England

Please see the information below issued by Public Health England (PHE) concerning the recent Ebola outbreak:

There have been cases of Ebola virus have been reported in Sierra Leone, Liberia, Guinea and Nigeria and this is the world's most serious outbreak to date. According to the UN, around 720 people have died. Ebola is a viral illness of which the initial symptoms can include a sudden fever, intense weakness, muscle pain and a sore throat.

We are closely monitoring the Ebola virus outbreak in Sierra Leone, Liberia, Guinea and Nigeria which has killed over 700 people.

There are no reports of British citizens being infected with the virus or cases of it in the UK or Europe.

The UK has a well-established and tested system to deal with any known or suspected imported case of this disease.

In line with recommendations issued by the World Health Organization (WHO), we have not imposed any trade or travel restrictions on the countries affected by the outbreak.

The risk to most travellers is low, however Travel Advice is being kept under constant review.

The UK has provided a £2 million package of assistance to help treat victims and prevent the spread of the virus in Africa.

RISK TO THE UK?

Public Health England's assessment of the risk to the UK from Ebola has not currently changed, and remains low. The UK has high quality, robust, well tested infection prevention and control measures to contain any imported case(s) of such disease. There are specialist facilities at the Royal Free hospital in London, and we have made sure that clinicians are aware of the symptoms to consider in any returning travellers. Testing can be rapidly undertaken to confirm/exclude the diagnosis. We will continue to closely monitor and review our plans.

IS THE UK PREPARED?

We have well tested systems for dealing with any imported case of this type of disease. Public Health England (PHE) and NHS England have plans in place to identify and promptly treat patients. We have robust prevention measures to contain infection, including specialist units if needed.

MEASURES AT AIRPORTS/PORTS?

We have issued guidance to all Border Force staff which makes it very clear what steps need to be taken should a passenger arrive at the border unwell. If a passenger is exhibiting symptoms, they will be referred immediately to a medical practitioner. All suspected cases identified at the border are reported to PHE. At all UK ports, there is a system for routing reports to a local health protection team who are available on a 24/7 basis throughout the

year. PHE is providing advice to frontline Border Force Officers on how to deal with and refer suspected cases of Ebola.

TRAVEL ADVICE

Decisions about travel to affected countries are a matter for individuals and companies. Our Travel Advice is in line with World Health Organization recommendations. The Ebola virus is considered low risk for most travellers. Travellers to Sierra Leone, Liberia, Guinea and Nigeria are advised to follow the health advice issued by the National Travel Health Network and Centre which is reflected in our Travel Advice.

Detail is available on the gov.uk website at <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ebola-government-response>. Sierra Leone's declaration of a public health emergency is reflected in our Travel Advice for the country. This does not affect our advice to British nationals. We keep travel advice under constant review

ARE BORDERS CLOSED?

Decisions to close borders are a matter for those countries that have been affected. On 27 July, the government of Liberia announced that all borders of Liberia have been closed, with the exception of major entry points including the Roberts International Airport, James Spriggs Payne Airport, Foya Crossing, Bo Waterside Crossing, Ganta Crossing. The Liberia Airport Authority has introduced enhanced screening measures for both inbound and outbound travellers at airport facilities.

WHAT ARE THE SIGNS OF EBOLA?

Ebola is a rare haemorrhagic fever infection. The symptoms are non-specific in the early stages and can include the sudden onset of fever, intense weakness, muscle pain, headache and sore throat similar to the symptoms of infections such as malaria. Symptoms may last from a few days to a week or more. In the later stages there may be vomiting, diarrhoea, rash, impaired kidney and liver function, and in some cases, both internal and external bleeding.

HOW IS EBOLA CONTRACTED?

Ebola is transmissible by direct contact with organs or bodily fluids of living or dead infected persons and animals. Avoiding contact with those infected mitigates the risk of infection. Outbreak control is achieved by limiting human to human transmission by early identification and isolation of cases. The incubation period of Ebola ranges from 2 to 21 days.

WHAT SHOULD SOMEBODY DO IF THEY THINK THEY HAVE THE VIRUS?

It is important to stress that no cases of imported Ebola have ever been reported in the UK. The risk of a traveller going to West Africa and contracting Ebola remains very low since Ebola is transmitted by direct contact with the blood or bodily fluids of an infected person. Anyone who has travelled in the affected area and is concerned should either contact their GP or NHS 111.

HARBOUR MASTER, SOUTH WALES
Queen Alexandra House, Cargo Road, CARDIFF, CF10 4LY

7th August 2014

All ABP South Wales Notices to Mariners may be viewed on: - www.southwalesports.co.uk

Owners, Agents and Charters should ensure that the contents of this notice are made known to the masters or persons in charge of their vessel or craft.