



Associated British Ports South Wales

NOTICE TO MARINERS

No 38 of 2014



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Public Health
Wales



TO ALL SEAPORT COMMUNITY STAKEHOLDERS

EBOLA VIRUS DISEASE

ADVICE NOTE ON PREPAREDNESS- NOVEMBER 2014

This note is to advise and reassure the port community that organisations tasked with preventing importation of Ebola Virus Disease through our ports are fully prepared to ensure both your safety and that of the wider community in Wales.

Attached are 10 points of note regarding the disease for your information.

Ships arriving in Wales from countries affected by the outbreak take several days affording us the opportunity to monitor the health status of those on board during its passage.

Shipping Agents and others who first become aware of such vessels due at one of our ports are urged to **immediately contact** their port health officers so that we can contact the Master as soon as possible during the voyage.

Current MCGA guidance to pilots is that they should contact the National Maritime Incident Centre at the Solent, 4 hours prior to such vessels of interest arriving at the pilot station. This enables an informed decision to be made about boarding the vessel given the known health status as declared by the Master at that time.

Our response to any given circumstance will follow a risk assessment carried out well in advance of the vessel arriving in Wales and will be proportionate to the risk (if any) posed to you. If you wish further information, then please contact your local Health Protection Team or Port Health Authority as below:

Port	Health Protection Team	Port Health Authority
Newport	Gwent HPT 01495 332219	01633 656 656
Cardiff	South East Wales HPT 02920 402 478	02920 871 162
Barry		01446 700 111
Port Talbot	Mid & West Wales HPT 01792 607 387	01792 653 523
Neath River		
Swansea		
Milford		01437 776 390
Pembroke		
Holyhead	North Wales HPT 01352 803 234	01248 752 822
Mostyn		01352 703 386

TEN THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT EBOLA

1. Ebola Virus Disease is a severe and often fatal disease in humans.
2. The virus has an incubation period of 2 to 21 days but in most cases symptoms appear between 9 and 11 days following exposure.
3. It is very unlikely for a case to arrive in the UK by ship. This is because it takes around 15 days for a ship to sail from West Africa to the UK.
4. Someone suffering from Ebola will typically have a fever, headache, joint and muscle pain, sore throat and intense muscle weakness. Diarrhoea, vomiting, a rash, stomach pain and impaired kidney and liver function follow. In the later stages the patient may also bleed from the ears, eyes, nose or mouth.
5. The virus can only be spread by direct contact with the body fluids of a person who has symptoms of the illness. It is not transmitted through the air for instance by coughs or sneezes.
6. Transmission does not occur through routine social contact, such as shaking hands, if a person is not feeling unwell.
7. While the UK might see cases of imported Ebola, there is a very low risk of it spreading to the general population. The UK has a world class health care system with robust infection control systems and processes and disease control systems which have a proven record of dealing with imported infectious diseases. Ebola causes most harm in countries with less developed healthcare facilities and public health capacity.
8. The current outbreak in West Africa is the largest known outbreak of this disease. Ebola was first identified in 1976, and since then there have been several outbreaks in Central Africa.

9. The virus comes from wild animals. Fruit bats are thought to be the most likely source of the Ebola virus, and it does not appear to cause them any harm. Occasionally the virus spreads to primates and humans, usually through the killing and butchering of wild animals for food ('bush meats').
10. To summarise. The risk posed by Ebola in the UK is low but all relevant agencies are prepared. If a ship is sailing from an affected country the Port Health Authority and MCGA will be aware and will have ensured all appropriate actions are taken to protect public health.

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

5th December 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.