

SECTOR COMMANDER
U.S. COAST GUARD
SECTOR DELAWARE BAY
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MARINE SAFETY INFORMATION BULLETIN

[MSIB # 34-14]

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Ebola Virus Precautions

To date, there have been 1603 confirmed cases of individuals infected with the Ebola virus worldwide with 887 deaths. The epidemic is slowing in Guinea but continues unabated in Liberia and Sierra Leone. Also, four cases have been reported in Nigeria. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has issued travel warnings. We strongly recommend that personnel traveling to those affected countries review travel alerts issued by the CDC prior to their arrival. **Travel alert information can be found at: <http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices>**

Vessel Masters are required to report any illness or death amongst vessel passengers or crew with actual, suspected or potential connection to a communicable disease. This report is required to be submitted to the CDC within the last 15 days prior to expected arrival as per 42 CFR 71.21.

The Philadelphia CDC can be reached 24 hours a day at 215-365-6401.

Vessels arriving from the above mentioned countries are at an elevated risk for contracting the Ebola Virus. **Vessels arriving from the above mentioned countries should be on heightened awareness regarding the Ebola Outbreak. CDC recommends avoiding contact with the blood and body fluids of people who are ill with the Ebola virus.**

Vessel agents (or other representatives) are requested to contact Masters of vessels that have visited the above mentioned countries prior to the vessel entering port, or if they have had any crewmembers travel through one of these countries in connection with a crew change, to inquire if there have been any reports of death or illness that may be in connection to the Ebola Virus.

In the interest of port safety, the Coast Guard reviews all Notice of Arrivals to determine if a vessel has visited a country impacted by an Ebola virus outbreak within recent port calls.

In addition to contacting the CDC in Philadelphia, Masters of vessels (or their designated agents or representatives) who have visited a country impacted by an Ebola virus outbreak within its recent (up to the last five) ports of call, will be contacted by Coast Guard Sector Delaware Bay and asked the questions outlined in the enclosure.



K. MOORE

Captain, U.S. Coast Guard
Captain of the Port

**Enclosure to Marine Safety Information Bulletin #34-14
Coast Guard Sector Delaware Bay**

Symptoms of Ebola Virus typically include:

- Fever
- Headache
- Joint and muscle aches
- Weakness
- Diarrhea
- Vomiting
- Stomach pain
- Lack of appetite

Some patients may experience:

- A Rash
- Red Eyes
- Hiccups
- Cough
- Sore throat
- Chest pain
- Difficulty breathing
- Difficulty swallowing
- Bleeding inside and outside of the body

- Symptoms may appear anywhere from 2 to 21 days after exposure to Ebola virus though 8-10 days is most common.
- Some who become sick with Ebola HF are able to recover, while others do not. The reasons behind this are not yet fully understood. However, it is known that patients who die usually have not developed a significant immune response to the virus at the time of death.

The Captain of the Port Delaware Bay would like to know if any person aboard the vessel is experiencing any symptoms of the Ebola Virus. Specific questions are listed below:

1. Is anyone presenting any of these symptoms?
2. When did the symptoms start?
3. Has medical treatment been administered?
4. Have they been around anyone else who has been ill?
5. What is the number of persons presenting symptoms?
6. Are there any persons planning on embarking or disembarking while in the U. S.?
7. Has any shore side medical attention been arranged for any ill persons?