

Standard Bulletin

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Setting the standard for
service and security

The Standard



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According to the World Health Organization (WHO), Ebola virus disease (formerly known as Ebola haemorrhagic fever) is a severe, often fatal illness, with a case fatality rate of up to 90%.

- The club continues to monitor the ongoing situation in West Africa.
- Alerts will be issued via our website and twitter to communicate major updates.
- Members who trade in the affected region should be aware of guidance issued by WHO and closely monitor crew health.

West African Ebola virus outbreak – an update

The Standard Club has been monitoring the outbreak of Ebola in West Africa and, following a report by the World Health Organization (WHO) that the number of cases continues to increase, urges members to remain vigilant.

The Ebola outbreak, one of the worst in history, is currently affecting four countries in West Africa: Guinea, Liberia, Nigeria and Sierra Leone. The **World Health Organization** has reported that the outbreak continues to accelerate with the total number of cases standing at 3,069 (including 1,552 deaths) as of 28 August.

Ebola is one of the world's most virulent diseases, with the infection transmitted by direct contact with the blood, bodily fluids and/or tissues of infected animals or people. Although the WHO has not recommended any trade or travel restrictions to Guinea, Liberia, Nigeria and Sierra Leone (as of 28 August), it is vital that members monitor the health and wellbeing of their crews and take all necessary precautions to prevent infection.

In this regard, it is considered prudent to:

- advise crews to remain onboard vessels whilst in ports in these jurisdictions to reduce the risk of coming into contact with individuals carrying the virus;
- instruct crew to report any of the known initial symptoms of Ebola immediately;
- in the event of any member of crew

falling unwell whilst in a high-risk area, seek immediate advice from experienced medical services or a company doctor. Members should also inform the club as soon as possible;

- consider introducing enhanced hygiene and sanitation procedures aboard vessels throughout any stay in a high-risk area;
- strictly adhere to ISPS procedures whilst in ports in these jurisdictions, so as to minimise any risk of stowaways or other unauthorised third parties gaining access to the ship.

Members should also be aware of any increased health inspections, procedures and/or disruptions at the various ports in the region. Measures introduced by the jurisdictions noted above are changing and evolving on a continual and sometimes daily basis, and the club would recommend that members seek updates from local agents and/or club correspondents in respect of imminent calls at potentially affected ports.

For further information, members are also directed to the very regular updates in respect of Ebola published by the WHO and specific web alerts posted on the **club's website**.