

SIERRA LEONE GOVERNMENT
MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND SANITATION
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DIVISION

The Port Health Officer
Port Health Office
Environmental Health Division
Ministry of Health and Sanitation
PMO's Office
Cline town,
Freetown

31st July 2014

TO: All Shipping Agencies

EBOLA OUT BREAK IN SIERRA LEONE
ADVICE FROM THE PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY TO CALLING VESSELS

The Ebola virus is the most contagious in planet earth. It started in our neighborhood Republic of Guinea in March this year and spread over into Sierra Leone through the Kailahun neighboring district to Guinea in May. It has severely affected Kailahun and Kenema districts in the far Eastern part of the country.

But however, there are reports and confirmed cases of Ebola in almost all the remaining districts including Freetown from runaway cases in those two affected districts.

The vigilance of the Government, Ministry of Health and Sanitation and partners have made the diseases not to be spreading outside this two affected district in the east. The two districts have been condomed by having several check points to check for running away cases. In addition to that measure, all District Health Management Teams have set up an Ebola Emergency surveillance team to sensitize, identify, locate and removal of runaway identified cases, surveillance of contacts and disinfection of contacted areas and equipments. And we have been succeeding in controlling the disease from spreading so far.

However, not withstanding the above national preventive/controlling strategies, the Port Health authority would like to strongly advise the captains and crews of all calling vessels in to Sierra Leone to strongly adhere to the following:

1. All crew are advised to stay on board their vessels on less on health emergencies.
2. No commercial sex worker should be allowed on all vessels
3. All crew members should put on disposable gloves throughout their stay in the Port
4. Maximum personal hygiene must be maintained
5. No unauthorized personnel should be allowed on board
6. All official visitors should wear disposable gloves
7. All non crew workers boarding vessels must comply to the above

Signed.....
PORT HEALTH OFFICER



C.C.: The Ag. Manager Environmental Health Division MOHS
" The Deputy Chief Medical Officer MOHS
" The Chief Medical Officer MOHS
" General Manager – SLPA
" Harbour Master – SLPA
" Freetown Terminal Bollore
" Commissioner of Customs & Excise
" Chief Immigration Officer