



## Coast Guard Sector Houston-Galveston Marine Safety Information Bulletin 14-14

### Ebola Hemorrhagic Fever (Ebola HF)

In response to the recent outbreak of Ebola HF, Sector Houston-Galveston has begun screening inbound vessels or crewmembers that have visited ports in Western Africa within their last 5 ports of call. A portion of that screening requires the Coast Guard to query vessel representatives to determine if any crewmembers exhibit any of the symptoms below:

#### SYMPTOMS

Consider a crew member or passenger as "suspect" if they have the following symptoms. Note: Symptoms may appear anywhere from 2 to 21 days after exposure to the Ebola virus, although 8-10 days is most common.

#### Symptoms of Ebola HF typically include:

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

#### Some patients may experience:

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

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 have died usually have not developed a significant immune response to the virus at the time of death.

Most cases have originated from West African countries. Several confirmed cases of Ebola HF have been reported in:

- Guinea
- Liberia
- Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)
- Sierra Leone
- Gabon
- South Sudan
- Ivory Coast
- Uganda
- Republic of the Congo (ROC)
- South Africa (imported)

As of July 27, 2014, the World Health Organization, in partnership with the Ministries of Health in Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia, and Nigeria announced a cumulative total of 1323 suspect and confirmed cases of Ebola virus disease (EVD) and 729 deaths. Of the 1323 clinical cases, 909 cases have been medically confirmed for Ebola virus infection.

### **ACTIONS TO TAKE IF INDIVIDUALS PRESENT THE SYMPTOMS NOTED ABOVE**

- Isolate suspect crew members from contact with unprotected persons in a private cabin until they are evaluated by a doctor to prevent transmission to others
- Minimize contact with other passengers and crew
- Wear protective clothing (such as masks, gloves, gowns, and goggles)
- Use infection-control measures (such as complete equipment sterilization and routine use of disinfectant)

The intent of all of these techniques is to avoid contact with the blood or secretions of an infected patient. If a patient with Ebola HF dies, it is equally important that direct contact with the body of the deceased person be prevented.

### **NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS**

- U.S. Foreign Quarantine Regulations, 42 CFR Part 71.21, require the Master of a ship destined for a U.S. port to immediately report the onboard occurrence of **any** death or **any** ill person among passengers or crew to the quarantine station with jurisdiction over the port at which the ship will arrive.
- Additionally, Title 33 CFR Part 160.215 requires notification to the relevant CG Sector of any hazardous condition aboard a vessel. A hazardous condition is defined per 33 CFR Part 160.204 as any condition that may adversely affect the safety of any vessel, bridge, structure, or shore area or the environmental quality of any port, harbor, or navigable waterway of the United States. It may but need not, involve collision, allision, fire, explosion, grounding, leaking, damage, injury or illness of a person aboard, or manning shortage.
- Vessel agents are also reminded to notify the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) if other vessel personnel, arriving by any other mode of transportation to the Port of Houston, show symptoms of the virus ((281) 230-3874 (Ext:0)). Examples: new crew, technicians, owner, operator, or Flag State representatives.

### **DENIAL OF ENTRY IMPOSED BY COTP**

- 33 CFR 160.107 dictates that each District Commander or Captain of the Port, subject to recognized principles of international law, may deny entry into the navigable waters of the United States or to any port or place under the jurisdiction of the United States, and within the district or zone of that District Commander or Captain of the Port, to any vessel not in compliance with the provisions of the Port and Tanker Safety Act (33 U.S.C. 1221-1232) or the regulations issued there under.
- Vessel representatives are being queried to determine if any crewmembers exhibit any of the illness symptoms above. **If a vessel is queried by Sector Houston-Galveston**

**COTP, a response to the query shall be submitted within 24 hours or the COTP may exercise denial of entry into the port.**

### **HOUSTON QUARANTINE JURISDICTION**

- The CDC operates a quarantine station in Houston. The station's jurisdiction includes all Texas ports and all ports in Louisiana.
- Vessels arriving in the Houston-Galveston Captain of the Port Zone should notify the Quarantine Station in Houston, TX at (281) 230-3874 (Ext:0)

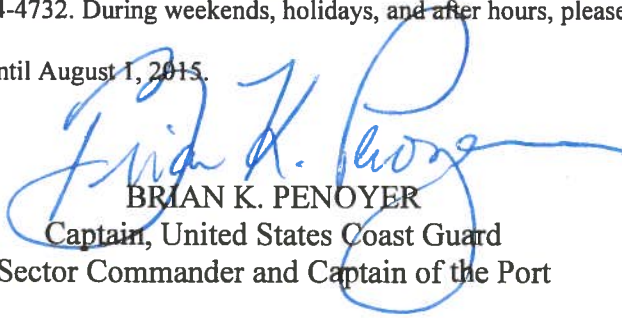
### **VESSEL MASTERS ARE ALSO HIGHLY ENCOURAGED TO NOTIFY U.S. CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION and ALL PILOT ASSOCIATIONS**

**Additional information regarding Ebola HF & other communicable diseases can be found at:**

- CDC information is available at <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/>
- Travel notice available at <http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices/watch/coronavirus-arabian-peninsula> (Note: the (CDC), World Health Organization (WHO), and U.S. Department of State do not recommend any travel or trade restrictions at this time.)

This notice will be posted on Sector Houston-Galveston's HOMEPORT website <http://homeport.uscg.mil>. If you have any questions or concerns regarding this cancellation, please contact Sector Houston-Galveston Vessel Inspections Division at (281) 464-4732. During weekends, holidays, and after hours, please contact (281) 464-4851.

This MSIB shall remain active until August 1, 2015.



**BRIAN K. PENOYER**  
Captain, United States Coast Guard  
Sector Commander and Captain of the Port