

## EBOLA VIRUS OUTBREAK IN GUINEA

March 2014

### UPDATE 04.06.14

As reported since Sunday, March 23rd 2014, cases of Ebola-type hemorrhagic fever were reported in the center of Guinea.

According to the information available at this stage, situation is as follows:

#### 1/ REPORTED CASES:

**GUINEA:** While the situation seemed to have stabilized recently, 28 new cases (incl. 9 lethal) have been reported over the past couple of weeks, mostly concentrated in the original area of the outbreak. To date the total number of confirmed cases on the whole Guinean territory since the beginning of the outbreak is of 199 (118 deaths).

As for Conakry, while there no further cases since April 26th, 2 new cases have now been reported.

**LIBERIA:** According to the WHO's latest report, the number of confirmed Ebola cases has remained unchanged since last month (6). No new reported case since April 9th.

**SIERRA LEONE:** New deaths were confirmed over the past few days in Sierra Leone, bringing the total number to 15 confirmed cases, 5 deaths and 21 more diagnosed as "suspected". All are so far located in the Koindu region bordering southern Guinea.

#### 2/ LOCAL & REGIONAL CONTAINMENT MEASURES:

As previously reported, all bordering countries (Mali, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Liberia and Ivory Coast) have activated their health watch & epidemiological monitoring cells & containment plans in order to avoid/reduce the risk of spread of the epidemic to their own populations in the areas contiguous to the Guinean region of "Guinean Forest" ("Guinée Forestière").

**GUINEA:** To our understanding, the medical watch is still in place at International Airport of Conakry, including screenings straight at the airport's entrance where all passengers now have to undergo a temperature check. Anyone showing more than 38°C is being examined medically before being authorized to process through check-in.

**SENEGAL:** The country's southern border with Guinea is still officially closed to date (since 30.03.14) and all farmers' markets in the direct vicinity of the border are still cancelled.

Furthermore, our colleagues from [SENEGAL P&I](#) just confirmed that the following measures by the Senegalese Maritime Authorities, **are still in place** :

- **All vessels arriving from any country with reported or suspected cases of Ebola**

**(currently : Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone) will need to be declared to the Authorities at least 24 hours in advance.**

- These ships will be inspected systematically at anchorage by representatives of the Senegalese Health Authorities
- Any vessel bearing suspected cases will be immediately quarantined and forbidden to enter the port of Dakar (or any other Senegalese port).

Local Agents have already advised that carriage cost of Health Authorities from shore to vessels may require the use of launch service, which will be charged to vessels at cost.

**SIERRA LEONE:** The country has officially closed their inland border with Liberia since 01.04.14.

**MOROCCO:** The airport of Casablanca being the main North & West African hub with daily flights to/from the region of the epidemics, the Moroccan Health Authorities have announced they would reinforce the "medical monitoring" of passengers flying in from countries infected. No specific details given so far regarding what this "medical monitoring" will be.

As for the **rest of the concerned countries** (including Guinea), at this stage and to date NO specific measure of quarantine or travelling restriction to/from these countries has been ordered by either local authorities or the W.H.O., and all airlines servicing the above countries are still operating normally.

### **3/ SYMPTOMS & SANITARY RECOMMENDATIONS :**

As a reminder, the disease can transmit through direct physical contact (hand, mouth, ...) or bodily fluids (blood, urine, faeces, ...). Early-stage common symptoms are fever, muscle pain, headaches, dizziness & tiredness and nausea (all unfortunately quite common to most flu syndromes). Following symptoms are vomiting, diarrhea, coughing (all possibly with blood) and nose or mouth bleeding.

Recommendations to be made to crews of vessels calling in these areas are to:

- refrain from making physical contact with any person showing any of the above symptoms;
- refrain from purchasing/consuming meat from local forest animals (monkeys, bats, porcupines, agouti and all other kinds of local rodents).
- respect normal basic hygiene measures and wash their hands frequently.
- Unless absolutely necessary, avoid travelling to/inside the infected areas

We shall not fail to keep you posted of any evolution which would be brought to our knowledge.

**IVORY P&I**