

MEMBER ALERT



Shipowners Claims Bureau, Inc., Manager
One Battery Park Plaza 31st Fl., New York, NY 10004 USA
Tel: +1 212 847 4500
Fax: +1 212 847 4599

www.american-club.com

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OUTBREAK OF PLAGUE IN MADAGASCAR

An outbreak of pneumonic plague is affecting widespread areas of Madagascar, including the heavily populated cities of Antananarivo, its suburbs and Toamasin.

Bubonic plague is a bacterial disease initially contracted through bites from fleas. Pneumonic plague occurs when the bacteria attacks the respiratory system. It is a much more serious form which spreads through the inhalation of the bacteria from an infected person's cough. Outbreaks occur regularly in Madagascar, but this year has seen more cases of pneumonic plague, appearing to spread more rapidly than usual.

The US Maritime Administration has also posted warnings on this outbreak in [U.S. Maritime Alert 2017-006A](#) issued October 24, 2017, citing the current information as available from the US embassy.

Plague can be successfully treated with antibiotics, but it is crucial to seek medical treatment immediately. Members whose vessels may be calling at Madagascan ports, especially Tamatave, are advised to take precautions such as instructing vessels' officers and crew to limit contact with shoreside personnel, to refrain from travelling inland, and to seek immediate medical assistance should they have any concerns about their health.

Members should note that updates on the status of this plague outbreak will be posted on the Club's website at:

http://www.american-club.com/page/infectious_diseases

This site also includes information on Ebola disease, Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS), the Zika virus and malaria. Updates on infectious disease outbreaks, any port and immigration requirements for seafarers or passengers, and all other relevant preventative guidance will be posted to this section of the Club's website as information is made available to your Managers.

Your Managers thank Club correspondents, ETIC Africa P&I Services, Madagascar, for their contribution to this update.