

POEA Advisory No. 01
Series of 2018

TO : ALL CONCERNED

SUBJECT : WHO Advice for International Travelers concerning the Outbreak of Pneumonic Plague in Madagascar

On 02 October 2017, the World Health Organization (WHO) reported and confirmed that there is an ongoing outbreak of Pneumonic Plague in Madagascar since August 2017. The diagnosis was confirmed by the Institut Pasteur de Madagascar.

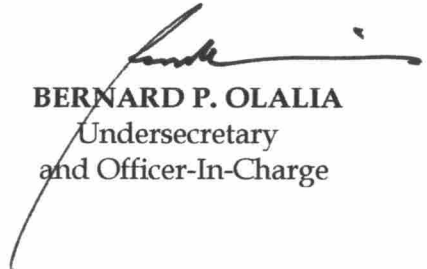
In addition, cases of bubonic plague, including deaths, have been reported throughout the said country. Most affected districts and cities include: Antananarivo (the capital city and its suburbs), Toamasina, and the rural district of Faratsiho. Cases were reported also from: Ambatondrazaka, Ambohidratrimo, Andramasina, Ankazobe, Anosibe An'ala, Anta-Atsimondrano, Anta-Avaradrano, Anta-Renivohitra, Arivonimamo, Faratsiho, Maevatanana, Mahajanga I, Miarinarivo, Moramanga, Toamasina I, Toamasina II, Tsiroanomandidy, Vohémar, and Ambalavao. Cases of bubonic plague are being reported nearly every year in Madagascar, particularly during the epidemic season between September and April. The ongoing pneumonic plague remains an unusual and serious event, particularly since it is occurring in densely populated coastal cities.

Based on the available information to date, the risk of international spread of plague appears very low. WHO advises against any restriction on travel or trade on Madagascar based on the available information.

However, travelers should be aware that along with pneumonic plague, malaria is also endemic in Madagascar. The public should seek advice on prevention, consider the antimalarial prophylaxis recommended by WHO and get information on where to seek medical treatment should they develop the plague-related symptoms when travelling to Madagascar.

The public is further advised to refer to the attached Advisory issued by the Bureau of Quarantine.

For the information and guidance of all concerned.


BERNARD P. OLALIA
Undersecretary
and Officer-In-Charge

Source: WHO (<http://www.who.int/ihl/updates/2017>)
30 October 2017

CONTROLLED AND DISSEMINATED
BY CRD ON 11 JAN 2018

PLAGUE

ADVISORY



BOQ: Pneumonic Plague Advisory
December 2017

Plague is caused by a bacteria found in small mammals and their fleas.

Pneumonic plague or lung-based plague is the most infectious and deadly. It is the least common form of plague.

TRANSMISSION

Plague is transmitted between animals and humans by the bite of infected fleas, direct contact with infected tissues, and inhalation of infected respiratory droplets.

SYMPTOMS

"Flu-like" symptoms 3-7 days after being infected or exposed. Typical symptoms are the sudden onset of fever, chills, head and body aches and weakness, vomiting and nausea.

TREATMENT

>Seek early diagnosis and treatment is very vital for survival and reduction of complications of plague. Antibiotics and supportive therapy are effective if patients are diagnosed in time.

PREVENTION AND CONTROL

- >Take precautions against flea bites and do not handle animal remains.
- >Use insect repellent products (with ingredients of DEET, IR3535, Icaridin (KBR3023) or Picaridin) for personal.
- >Avoid direct contact with infected tissues or close exposure to individuals sick with pneumonic plague.
- >Report any flu-like symptoms to Department of Health Emergency Hotline at (02) 711-1001 to 02.

