Various organisations have reported an outbreak of pneumonic plague in Madagascar. The affected area includes the port of Toamasina.

We attach four bulletins with recent information. These bulletins are published by Coast Guard Maritime Commons, The United States Department of Transportation (Marad), The US Embassy in Madagascar and Comoros and US CDC.

The bulletins contain information about how the disease spreads, recommendations for protection and recommendations for follow up for those who have been in close contact with a person who has had the plague in the previous seven days.

P&I Associates, Club correspondents in South Africa have also issued the following update:

PLAGUE UPDATE – South Africa is one of nine countries which have been prioritized by the World Health Organisation (WHO) to prepare itself for possible "black death" plague cases. This was due to its trade and travel links with Madagascar. The other eight countries at risk include the Comoros, Ethiopia, Kenya, Mauritius, Mozambique, France’s La Reunion, the Seychelles, and Tanzania. A recent update on the outbreak, released in a WHO report, stated that South Africa's travel and trade links with Madagascar, where the outbreak has already killed 124 people and infected 1,133, has put it at risk. In light of the above, following notice have been passed to local agents by Port Health for vessels arriving from Madagascar. - Shipping Agents must please ensure that pratical applications are sent to Port Health within 48 hours of the vessels arrival. Regardless of the outcome of the Free pratical application status the Master of the vessels must immediately inform Port Health of any changes/developments relating to the health status of those on board the vessel. No person should leave / be removed from the vessel for any health reasons without Port Health being informed.

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