



भारत सरकार / GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
पत्तन, पोत परिवहन और जलमार्ग मंत्रालय  
MINISTRY OF PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS

नौवहन महानिदेशालय, मुंबई  
DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF SHIPPING, MUMBAI

F. No. File No. 23-MISC/13/2026-CREW-DGS (C. No. 40718)

Date: 27.05.2026

Advisory  
DGS Circular 28 of 2026

Subject: Guidelines for Indian Seafarers and Vessels Calling at Indian Ports – Ebola Disease Precaution – reg.

In view of the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare advisory and PIB Press Release on Ebola Disease preparedness dated 23.05.2026 (copy enclosed), World Health Organization guidelines on Infection Prevention and Control for Ebola and Marburg Diseases dated 17.05.2026, and the previously issued guidelines/advisories by IMO vide Circular Letter No. 3484 dated 02 September 2014 and MS Notice No. 19 of 2014 dated 13.10.2014, all Indian seafarers, shipowners, RPSL companies, agents, Masters and vessels calling at Indian ports are advised to strictly observe the following precautionary and preventive measures to safeguard public health, seafarer welfare and maritime operations.

2. India has not reported any case of Bundibugyo Ebola Disease so far; however, enhanced screening and surveillance measures have been initiated at international airports and other points of entry. SOPs/guidelines on screening, quarantine, clinical management, laboratory testing and infection prevention practices have also been shared with all States/UTs by MoHFW. Further guidance and precautionary measures may also be referred from the United Nations/WHO SOPs and guidelines on Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) outbreak management, infection prevention and control practices, and public health response measures.
3. Indian seafarers are advised to avoid non-essential travel to the **Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda and South Sudan**, in line with the Government of India advisory.
4. Seafarers who have recently travelled from, signed on/off from, or transited through affected countries shall:
  - a. Report their travel history to port health, immigration, ship agents and company representatives.
  - b. Immediately report symptoms such as fever, weakness, vomiting, diarrhoea, bleeding, unexplained illness or body pain.
  - c. Avoid close contact with any person having unexplained fever or suspected Ebola symptoms.
  - d. Maintain strict hand hygiene and avoid contact with blood, body fluids or contaminated materials.
  - e. Cooperate with screening, medical examination, quarantine or isolation directions issued by health authorities.

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5. Masters of vessels calling at Indian ports from Ebola affected countries shall:
  - a. Obtain health declarations from all crew before arrival.
  - b. Immediately inform Port Health Officer, port authorities and company if any crew member has unexplained fever or symptoms.
  - c. Keep suspected crew isolated in a designated cabin until medical authorities board the vessel.
  - d. Avoid unnecessary shore leave for symptomatic crew.
  - e. Ensure availability of PPE, disinfectants, hand hygiene facilities and basic infection-control arrangements onboard.
  
6. RPSL and Shipping companies shall:
  - a. Avoid deployment of Indian seafarers to affected countries unless operationally unavoidable.
  - b. Brief all seafarers regarding Ebola precautions before sign-on.
  - c. Maintain updated contact details of seafarers deployed in affected or high-risk regions.
  - d. Coordinate with shipowners, agents, Indian Missions and DG Shipping in case any Indian seafarer reports illness.
  - e. Ensure prompt reporting of suspected cases to concerned health and maritime authorities.
  
7. All DG Shipping approved medical practitioners are requested to prominently display these guidelines on their notice boards for creating awareness among seafarers and for ensuring necessary precautionary measures against Ebola Disease.
  
8. All vessels arriving from or having crew/passengers with recent travel history to affected countries shall comply with screening and surveillance requirements at Indian ports. Any suspected case shall be reported immediately and managed strictly as per Ministry of Health guidelines.
  
9. Ebola is a serious viral haemorrhagic fever with high mortality. At present, no approved vaccine or specific treatment is available for Ebola disease caused by the Bundibugyo virus strain.
  
10. All stakeholders are advised to remain vigilant, avoid panic, and follow instructions issued by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Port Health Authorities, State/UT health authorities and DG Shipping from time to time.

This advisory is issued with the approval of the Competent Authority.

  
(Capt. P.C. Meena)  
Dy. Director General of Shipping

**Travel Advisory in context of Ebola Disease Public Health Emergency of International Concern**

In light of the reported outbreaks of Ebola Disease in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and Uganda, the World Health Organization (WHO) on 17 May, 2026, under the International Health Regulations, 2005, determined it to be a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC).

The Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC), has officially declared the ongoing outbreak of Bundibugyo strain Ebola virus disease affecting the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Uganda, a Public Health Emergency of Continental Security (PHECS).

WHO's IHR Emergency Committee on 22 May, 2026 has issued temporary recommendations on the epidemic of Ebola disease caused by Bundibugyo virus (BDBV), to strengthen disease surveillance at Points of Entry to "detect, assess, report and manage travellers with unexplained febrile illness arriving from areas with documented BDBV detection" while "discouraging travel to areas with documented BDBV detection".

Countries bordering Democratic Republic of the Congo and Uganda, including South Sudan, are assessed to be at high risk of disease transmission. Ebola disease is a viral haemorrhagic fever caused by infection with the Bundibugyo virus strain of Ebola Virus. It is a serious disease with a high mortality rate. No vaccines or specific treatments have been approved to prevent or treat Ebola disease caused by Bundibugyo virus.

India has not reported any cases of Ebola disease caused by infection with the Bundibugyo virus strain. No vaccines or specific treatments have been approved to prevent or treat Ebola disease caused by Bundibugyo virus.

In view of the evolving situation in Democratic Republic of the Congo and other affected countries, and in line with WHO's recommendations, Government of India advises all its citizens to avoid non-essential travel to Democratic Republic of the Congo, Uganda and South Sudan.