Public Health in the Maritime Domain

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Clarifying the Architecture of Maritime Security in Africa
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Quarantine and Border Health Services Branch Mission

Protect US communities from global disease threats

QBHSB supports this mission by

- Preventing the introduction and spread of communicable diseases
- Enhancing federal, state, territorial, and industry partnerships
- Enforcing public health regulations
- Supporting public health at international borders
CDC Quarantine Station Jurisdictions

Map of the United States showing the locations of CDC Quarantine Stations in various cities across the country.
Partners are critical in CDC efforts to detect and control communicable disease threats at US ports and in globally mobile populations.
CDC Border Health Responses

Safeguarding America From Public Health Threats

- H7N9 Influenza & MERS (2013)
- Ebola & MERS (2014)
- Zika (2016)
- Plague (2017)
- Ebola (2018)
- Ebola & Monkeypox (2019)
International Health Regulations (IHR)

- International legal instrument
- Binding 196 countries across globe
- Prevent and respond to acute public health risks with cross-border potential
- Require countries to report
  - disease outbreaks
  - public health events
Maritime Declaration of Health

- Ship and crew information
- Previous itinerary or ports of call
- Details on deaths or illnesses on board
- Control measures taken

Article 37 Maritime Declaration of Health

1. The master of a ship, before arrival at its first port of call in the territory of a State Party, shall ascertain the state of health on board, and, except when that State Party does not require it, the master shall, on arrival, or in advance of the vessel’s arrival if the vessel is so equipped and the State Party requires such advance delivery, complete and deliver to the competent authority for that port a Maritime Declaration of Health which shall be countersigned by the ship’s surgeon, if one is carried.

2. The master of a ship, or the ship’s surgeon if one is carried, shall supply any information required by the competent authority as to health conditions on board during an international voyage.
Example of Disease Transmission

- Measles outbreaks globally, including Philippines
- Measles symptoms 7–14 days after exposure
- Infectious period 4 days before–4 days after rash

- Master joins container vessel in the Philippines April 15

- Master develops high fever on April 23 while docked in Mozambique

- Master develops rash on April 28
- Master disembarked in Namibia where diagnosed with measles
Identifying Public Health Threats

• Type of ship
  – Passenger, cargo, fishing

• Main imports and exports
  – Identify countries routinely importing/exporting

• Nearby international airports
  – Crew members joining ship
Is your port prepared to respond to a public health threat?

• Routine use of reporting tools
  – Maritime Declaration of Health (MDH)
  – Regulatory requirement to report

• Disease response plans
  – Health screenings at port entry
  – Vector surveillance and control

• Laws and regulations
  – Federal vs. local

• Port medical resources
  – Private ambulances, seafarers’ clinics
Resources

• “Handbook for management of public health events on board ships”

• Ports, Airports and Ground Crossings Network (PAGNet)
  – https://extranet.who.int/pagnet/

• CDC’s Travelers’ Health
  – www.cdc.gov/travel

• International Maritime Organization (IMO)
  – www.imo.org