

BOMA EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Oct 2014

With the latest news of the first cases of Ebola in the U.S. and increased threats to Americans from radicals in the Middle East, this is a good time to remind all of the emergency preparedness resources BOMA International has to offer, along with other federal and international resources on Ebola itself and being prepared for infectious diseases in general.

- The [CDC](#) and [WHO](#) have plenty of information on Ebola.
- The BOMA International [Emergency Preparedness Guidebook](#) advises building owners and managers on how handle all kinds of threats (including infectious diseases), and how to communicate with tenants about those threats and prepare for them.
- DHS also has [guides](#) for commercial facilities.
- Many of these and other links can be found on [Preparedness](#) section of the BOMA International web site or the MyBOMA Preparedness Team Site.

In addition, the list below was extracted from WHO documents (and included in the guidebook) to give property managers some idea of the types of measures to anticipate during an influenza or infectious disease outbreak:

- Advise people with acute respiratory illness to stay at home and to minimize their contact with household members and others.
- Advise household contacts to minimize their level of interaction outside the home and to isolate themselves at the first sign of any symptoms of influenza.
- Implement social distancing measures as indicated in national plans, such as class suspensions and adjusting working patterns.
- Encourage reduction in travel and crowding of the mass transport system.
- Assess and determine if cancellation, restriction or modification of mass gatherings is indicated.
- Distribute antiviral and other medical supplies in accordance with national plans.
- Plan for vaccine distribution and accelerate preparations for mass vaccination campaigns.
- Implement corpse management procedures, as necessary.
- Support international travel measures advisories and health alerts, including entry and exit screening as part of the global response, and/or issue advice to travelers.
- Even countries not yet affected may need to be prepared to implement planned interventions to reduce the spread of pandemic disease and may need to more immediately implement entry screening at international borders.

Information provided by Jason E. Todd, Director, Federal Affairs, Building Owners and Managers Association International

www.boma.org 202-326-6356 jtodd@boma.org