FOCUS

Africa is currently experiencing the worst epidemic of Ebola ever known. The Media informs the whole world daily of the latest advances and the last weeks have been marked by a strong acceleration in the number of cases. According to the WHO, at the current rate of infection, it will take six to nine months and more than 490 million dollars to curb the epidemic which is likely to affect 20,000 people.

In the absence, to date, of a vaccine or known cure, prevention plays an essential role.

The teams at Gras Savoye, a broker strongly established in Africa and specialising in healthcare insurance, are mobilising to give you the optimum assistance and guidance during this crisis.

Employers have a duty of care towards their employees and it is in that sense that we draw your attention to a few simple but important measures that we would encourage you to put in place:

1. Promoting hygiene:
   - Define and enforce very precise and strict cleaning/disinfection measures for offices both in the Capital and outside, as well as for canteens, showers, sanitary facilities…
   - Apply these hygiene measures to vehicles and buses which transport personnel
   - Define the frequency of the cleaning
   - Put in place monitoring procedures

2. Protect your staff:
   - Make antiseptic solutions available at the entrance of offices and soaps for staff and visitors
   - Make disposable plastic gloves available for staff most at risk (checkout assistants etc.…)
   - Make protective material (gloves, masks) available to company infirmaries and check that they have a thermometer
   - Secure areas in which you are likely to receive members of the public, restrict the movements of visitors and keep them separated from employees
   - Identify the personnel posted in regions affected by the epidemic, contact them regularly and assure them of your support. We ask you to please respect your duty of protection regarding these employees and their families in the course of their work or expatriation.

3. Communicate:
   - Keep staff and their families informed: posters, leaflets…
   - Combat false information and rumours (miracle cures etc.)
   - Display prevention information visibly in offices, recommending limiting physical contact (including handshakes) so that your staff feel as comfortable as possible to be able to refuse to shake hands with a visitor
   - Specifically raise awareness among your employees who are the most exposed to the risk

4. Organize monitoring of the sanitary environment:
   - Set up an EBOLA monitoring unit including the company doctor, the Hygiene and Security committee, the head of HR and the senior management.
   - Schedule weekly meetings to check that enforced measures are being correctly applied, and that they still correspond to the evolving circumstances. These meetings could equally be the time to write and send a regular short communication to your staff about the situation.
   - Implement a validation and monitoring system for national and international travel made by your employees.
Communique support for the prevention of Ebola

To help you to promote the hygiene measures to your employees, Gras Savoye has produced an example of a poster outlining prevention measures. This poster can be sent to you on demand (See contacts below).

CONTACTS

Get in touch with your normal contact at Gras Savoye or find the contact details of our different branches at http://international.grassavoye.com

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GS International

Directly present in more than 50 countries, GS International completes its network with that of Willis, partner and shareholder since 1999. In this way, GS International assists its clients in the coverage and management of all their risks in more than 130 countries.

More information on our expertise, implantations and news on:
http://international.grassavoye.com

Gras Savoye at your service

Our medical advisors and our technical teams are at your disposal if required in order to inform you of the consequences of the epidemic on the implementation of the coverages of your insurance contracts.

Communication contact at GS International: frederic.bouchet@grassavoye.com

Gras Savoye has formed an Ebola crisis unit to best assist you in the management of risks related to the epidemic.

Find our different reports on the blog of our internet site.