

EXODUS & COMPANY (PVT) LTD

the infrastructure company

September 13, 2018

Client Update 13

Cholera Outbreak Awareness

1 Preamble

Exodus & Company would like to advise of its serious concern on the outbreak of the deadly cholera disease in Harare. In light of this, we strongly believe one of the major methods of preventing the outbreak of this disease is making people aware of suitable hygienic standards. Our aim is to always make sure the wellbeing of our clients and loved ones is safeguarded.

2 High Standards of Hygiene

2.1 We would like to caution our clients to take the necessary hygienic measures to ensure that they are not affected by this endemic. Prevention of cholera is dependent on access to safe water, adequate sanitation, and basic hygiene needs. The Government has been sending useful cholera alerts and awareness information to all of us. Let's follow the advice.

However, over and above that, we implore the residents of Mabvazuva to strictly observe the following;

2.1.1 Ensure temporary toilets are properly connected to the main sewer reticulation network and any malfunctioning is attended to promptly.

2.1.2 Avoid shoving into the sewer system any material that would cause blockages and poor flow of sewer in the network. Blocked sewer lines would result in sewer overflowing on the surface thereby increasing the risk of cholera disease outbreak in the area.

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- 2.1.3 Always drink clean water that is supplied from clean sources. Never drink water from open sources like open wells, the streams and the dam. These sources of water may be sources of various water borne diseases.
- 2.1.4 Avoid littering in undesignated areas in our community. Littered material maybe a source of diseases which can easily be spread by flies.
- 2.1.5 The developer by the developer from the boreholes. As a rule, we regularly test the borehole water for suitability for home use, and the various tests done so far have shown that the water is suitable for consumption. However, ensure the borehole water is stored in clean and closed or covered containers.

3 Blair Toilets

- 3.1 We reiterate that blair toilets are not allowed in Mabvazuva. The blair toilets pose the risk of contaminating ground water from which we draw borehole water. Residents must report to the developer any identified use of blair toilets in our community.

4 Water Supply

- 4.1 The developer is increasing the number of boreholes supplying water to the residents. Two additional boreholes will be commissioned within the next two weeks in order to increase water supply to the residents. Currently we await results of the test for suitability of the water for domestic home use.

4. Reporting Sewer Blockages

- 4.1 Should you come across blocked sewer in our community, please report promptly to our site office so that its attended to immediately.

5. Kids Playing Outside

5.1 Always keep a watchful eye on the kids playing in the area to ensure they play in safe areas, with no contact with dangerous litter or waste material, should any be found in the area.

6. Cholera- General

6.1 Cholera is a diarrhoeal disease caused by infection of the intestine with the bacterium *Vibrio Cholerae*, either type O1 or O139. Both children and adults can be infected.

6.2 Cholera is usually transmitted through faecally contaminated water or food and remains an ever-present risk. New outbreaks can occur sporadically where water supply, sanitation, food safety, and hygiene are inadequate.

6.3 **Symptoms of cholera:** Cholera symptoms can range from mild to severe and include:

6.3.1 **Severe, watery diarrhoea.** Diarrhoea (look out for the characteristic 'rice water' stools or diarrhoea that has a fishy odour).

6.3.2 **Nausea and vomiting.** It occurs in the early and later stages, it may persist for hours.

6.3.3 **Muscle cramps.** This is a result from the loss of salts: chloride, sodium and potassium.

6.3.4 **Dehydration.** This can develop within hours. Depending on how much body fluid has been lost, dehydration can range from mild to severe.

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6.3.5 **Signs of cholera dehydration.** Irritability, lethargy, sunken eyes, dry mouth, extreme thirst, dry, shrivelled skin, little or no urine output, low blood pressure, irregular heartbeat, rapid pulse, dry mucous membranes, extreme thirst, lethargy, unusual sleepiness, infrequent urination or sunken fontanelles in infants.

6.3.6 **Shock.** Hypovolemic shock is one of the most serious complications. This occurs when low blood volume causes a drop in blood pressure this results in reduction of the amount of oxygen reaching the tissues. If this is not treated it could lead to death.

6.3.7 Children generally have the same symptoms as adults, but could also experience:

6.3.7.1 Extreme drowsiness or even coma

6.3.7.2 Fever

6.3.7.3 Convulsions

7. Emergency Situations

7.1 The Government has advised citizens to report, urgently, any suspected signs of the disease to the nearest clinic or hospital. We implore on all to respect this call.

NB: Exodus & Company is committed in promoting a healthy and safe environment

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