



SHIP SAFETY BULLETIN

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Subject: Temporary Guidance Regarding the Use of Non-Medical Masks or Face Coverings for Workers in the Marine Transportation Sector

Purpose

This Bulletin outlines temporary guidance related to the use of non-medical masks or face coverings for workers in the marine transportation sector during the COVID-19 pandemic period.

Scope

This bulletin applies to workers in the marine transportation sector, examples of which are provided in a non-exhaustive list set out in Annex 1.

What you need to know

Hygiene:

From the Government of Canada web-site, <https://www.canada.ca/coronavirus>, the following general hygiene guidance can be found:

Proper hygiene can help reduce the risk of infection or spreading infection to others:

- wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after using the washroom and when preparing food.
- use alcohol-based [hand sanitizer](#) if soap and water are not available.
- when coughing or sneezing: cough or sneeze into a tissue or the bend of your arm, not your hand.

Keywords:

1. COVID-19
2. Non-Medical Masks
3. Face Coverings

Questions concerning this Bulletin should be addressed to:

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- dispose of any tissues you have used as soon as possible in a lined waste basket and wash your hands afterwards.
- avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands.

Non-Medical Masks or Face Coverings:

Non-medical masks or face coverings are defined as non-surgical, non-regulated cloth masks that cover the mouth and nose. They are **not** personal protective equipment (PPE) or medical devices and are not regulated as such. When worn properly, a person wearing a non-medical mask or face covering may reduce the spread of his or her infectious respiratory droplets.

The Wearing of Non-Medical Masks or Face Coverings:

To support situations where protection is **not** already prescribed as a component of required PPE, and maintaining a physical distance of two (2) metres between co-workers or customers/clients in the workplace is not consistently possible, consideration should be given to the use of a non-medical mask or face covering, for which the following guidance is proposed:

- a. All workers referenced under “*Scope*”, above, should have in their possession, or have access to, a non-medical mask or face covering.
- b. A non-medical mask or face covering should be donned on a risk-based approach specific to the unique circumstances of the workplace, when local authorities require it (for which, in the case of a vessel or a marine facility, “local authorities” can include the vessel master, a Port Authority, or other local or public health official).
- c. The use of respirators (e.g., N-95 masks) should be conserved for health care workers and others providing direct care to COVID-19 patients. N-95 masks should continue to be used outside of the COVID-19 context only where this is the usual prescribed PPE for protection against other identified hazards.
- d. Learn how to [properly wear a non-medical mask or face covering](#) to limit the spread of COVID-19 when physical distancing is difficult.

Further information regarding public health guidance can be found at the following link:
<https://www.canada.ca/coronavirus>

Annex 1

Examples of workers in the marine transportation sector can include:

- Marine crew operating a vessel (including seafarers conducting a crew change)
- Persons involved in the provision of ship and port services and supplies (including those providing administration and management support)
- Equipment operators
- Workers supporting the loading/offloading
- Maintenance services
- Security officers and those providing security support functions
- Inspectors
- Marine surveyors
- Marine pilots
- Vessel traffic management staff
- Representatives of seafarers' welfare and labour organizations
- Search and rescue workers (also deemed essential workers as emergency responders)
- Divers
- Response and clean-up crew for a maritime spill
- Other emergency response persons
- Essential workers from other sectors who work on board a vessel