



Gibraltar Maritime Administration

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Shipping Information Notice – 065 – Coronavirus

To: Ship owners, Operators, Managers, DPA's

The purpose of this Information Notice is to provide information on the Coronavirus, and recommended precautionary measures, which ship's Masters may adopt in relation to minimising the risks associated with the spread of the virus.

Introduction:

Coronaviruses (CoV) are a large family of viruses that cause illness ranging from the common cold to more severe diseases such as Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS-CoV) and Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS-CoV). A novel coronavirus (nCoV) is a new strain that has not been previously identified in humans.

Coronaviruses are zoonotic, meaning they are transmitted between animals and people. Detailed investigations found that SARS-CoV was transmitted from civet cats to humans and MERS-CoV from dromedary camels to humans. Several known coronaviruses are circulating in animals that have not yet infected humans.

Common signs of infection include respiratory symptoms, fever, cough, shortness of breath and breathing difficulties. In more severe cases, infection can cause pneumonia, severe acute respiratory syndrome, kidney failure and even death.

Standard recommendations to prevent infection spread include regular hand washing, covering mouth and nose when coughing and sneezing, thoroughly cooking meat and eggs. Avoid close contact with anyone showing symptoms of respiratory illness such as coughing and sneezing.

Precautionary measures & monitoring:

Ship's Masters and ship operators are recommended to monitor the situation by continuously consulting advisories issued by WHO and other public health authorities and evaluate the risks present in the next port of call. Moreover, ship operators may consider implementing the following recommended measures:

- Ship masters should ensure that the crew are aware of the risks, how the virus can be spread and how to reduce the risk;
- Strictly enforce the ISPS requirements on ensuring that unauthorized personnel do not board the ship throughout the ships port call;

- Ship masters should give careful consideration to the current situation before granting any shore leave or planning crew changes whilst in affected areas;
- Upon departure from port, the crew should be aware of the symptoms and report any occurring symptoms immediately to the person in charge of medical care on board;
- Ship's Masters should seek immediate expert medical opinion, in the event of a suspected diagnosis of Coronavirus. Ship masters are to report the event as soon as possible to the next port of call;

Furthermore, ship operators and Masters may consider implementing the following list of measures on board the ship when a crewmember or passenger shows symptoms compatible with the disease:

- Keep the patient's cabin doors closed, if not placed in a medical isolation room on board;
- Provide information about the risk of disease transmission to persons who will take care of the patient or enter the isolation area;
- Maintain a log listing everybody who enters the cabin;
- Anyone entering the cabin to provide care to the person in isolation or to clean the cabin must wear appropriate PPE. A surgical protection mask and gloves are particularly important;
- Limit the movement and transport of the patient from the cabin for essential purposes only. If movement is necessary, the patient should be wearing a surgical mask;
- Start case investigation immediately. Wear appropriate PPE when interviewing the patient;
- Identify the patient's close contacts and ask them to do passive self-monitoring of any symptoms.

Further Information:

Further information on the Coronavirus inclusive of precautionary measures may be obtained via <https://www.who.int/health-topics/coronavirus>

Steve Gomez
Chief Surveyor (Ag)

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