

## Inland River Vessel Decontamination Protocol

### **(1) Procedures for Initial Onboard Response to Potentially Infected Employee:**

- If an employee develops symptoms (Fever, cough, congestion, shortness of breath):
  - the employee should be isolated in a room by themselves and when available, asked to don a mask (a surgical mask or dust mask is adequate, N-95 is not required)
  - Contact the HealthWorks Provider on call 270-448-WELL (9355).
  - Designate one member of the crew to take food and drink to and from the sick employee until it is possible to take him/her shoreside.
    - Isolated employee should wear a disposable facemask when in contact with others
    - Designated member should wear a disposable facemask and gloves when in contact with the isolated employee
      - Throw out disposable facemasks and gloves after using them. Do not reuse.
      - When removing personal protective equipment, first remove and dispose of gloves. Then, immediately clean your hands with soap and water or alcohol-based hand sanitizer. Next, remove and dispose of facemask, and immediately clean your hands again with soap and water or alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
    - Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands
    - Avoid sharing items such as dishes, drinking glasses, cups, eating utensils, towels, bedding, or other household items. After the isolated employee uses these items, they should be properly washed or disposed of

### **(2) Procedures for Decontaminating Vessel Areas After Potentially Infected Employee**

#### **Departs:**

- Keep room where potentially infected employee stayed off-limits to all personnel for 24 hours after his/her departure from vessel.
- If weather and operating conditions permit, open nearby windows and doors to increase air circulation in the area. Do not violate any company policy regarding operation of vessel with watertight windows, doors, or hatches open.
- After 24 hours have elapsed
  - Clean and disinfect high-touch surfaces daily in household common areas (e.g. tables, hard-backed chairs, doorknobs, light switches, remotes, handles, desks, toilets, sinks):
    - Wear disposable gloves when cleaning and disinfecting surfaces. Gloves should be discarded after each cleaning. If reusable gloves are used, those gloves should be dedicated for cleaning and disinfection of surfaces for COVID-19 and should not be used for other purposes. Consult the manufacturer's instructions for cleaning and disinfection products used. Clean hands immediately after gloves are removed.
    - If surfaces are dirty, they should be cleaned using a detergent or soap and water prior to disinfection.

- For disinfection, diluted household bleach solutions, alcohol solutions with at least 70% alcohol, and most common EPA-registered household disinfectants should be effective.
- Diluted household bleach solutions can be used if appropriate for the surface. Follow manufacturer's instructions for application and proper ventilation. Check to ensure the product is not past its expiration date. Never mix household bleach with ammonia or any other cleanser. Unexpired household bleach will be effective against coronaviruses when properly diluted.
  - Prepare a bleach solution by mixing:
    - 5 tablespoons (1/3rd cup) bleach per gallon of water or
    - 4 teaspoons bleach per quart of water
- Products with EPA-approved emerging viral pathogens are expected to be effective against COVID-19 based on data for harder to kill viruses. Follow the manufacturer's instructions for all cleaning and disinfection products (e.g., concentration, application method and contact time, etc.).
- For soft (porous) surfaces such as carpeted floor, rugs, and drapes, remove visible contamination if present and clean with appropriate cleaners indicated for use on these surfaces. After cleaning:
  - Launder items as appropriate in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. If possible, launder items using the warmest appropriate water setting for the items and dry items completely, or
  - Use products with the EPA-approved emerging viral pathogens claims that are suitable for porous surfaces.
- Wear disposable gloves when handling dirty laundry from an ill person and then discard after each use. If using reusable gloves, those gloves should be dedicated for cleaning and disinfection of surfaces for COVID-19 and should not be used for other household purposes. Clean hands immediately after gloves are removed.
- If no gloves are used when handling dirty laundry, be sure to wash hands afterwards.
- If possible, do not shake dirty laundry. This will minimize the possibility of dispersing virus through the air.
- Launder items as appropriate in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. If possible, launder items using the warmest appropriate water setting for the items and dry items completely. Dirty laundry from an ill person can be washed with other people's items.
- Clean and disinfect clothes hampers according to guidance above for surfaces. If possible, consider placing a bag liner that is either disposable (can be thrown away) or can be laundered.