

MARINE SAFETY INFORMATION BULLETIN

MSIB 009 - 20

Date: March 20, 2020

Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) Advisory 20MAR2020

The Louisiana Department of Public Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have updated their Guidance for Managing Suspected Coronavirus Disease ((see <https://go.usa.gov/xdfyG>) & (<http://ldh.la.gov/coronavirus/>))

Mariners are reminded that the illness of a person onboard any vessel that may adversely affect the safety of a vessel or port facility is a hazardous condition per 33 CFR 160.216 and must be reported *immediately* to the U.S. Coast Guard Captain of the Port (COTP). Cases of persons who exhibit symptoms consistent with COVID-19 must be reported to Sector New Orleans Command Center at (504) 365-2209

The Coast Guard considers it a hazardous condition under 33 CFR 160.216 if anyone, regardless of where they have been or who they have interacted with, shows symptoms of COVID-19 or other flu like illness. This requires immediate notification to the nearest Coast Guard COTP.

Preventing the spread of infection to crewmembers

CDC recommends that crewmembers who self-report or appear to have fever or acute respiratory symptoms (such as cough or shortness of breath) be immediately evaluated.

If crewmembers in their work activities are involved in direct contact with passengers and other crew members who have fever or acute respiratory illness. Please follow the following recommendations:

- Ask the sick person to wear a facemask (a typical surgical mask is sufficient) if tolerated, any time they leave their cabin or interact with other people.
- Maintain a distance of 6 feet from the sick person while interviewing, escorting, or providing other assistance.
- Keep interactions with sick people as brief as possible.
- Limit the number of people who interact with sick people. To the extent possible, have a single person give care and meals to the sick person.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water. If soap and water are not available and if hands are not visibly soiled, use a hand sanitizer containing 60%-95% alcohol.
- Provide tissues and access to soap and water and ask the sick persons to:
 - Cover their mouth and nose with a tissue (or facemask) when coughing or sneezing.
 - Throw away used tissues immediately in a disposable container (e.g., plastic bag) or a washable trash can.
 - Wash their hands often with soap and water for 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available and hands are not visibly soiled, the sick person should use a hand sanitizer containing 60%-95% alcohol.
- If soap and water are not available and hands are not visibly soiled, the sick person should use a hand sanitizer containing 60%-95% alcohol.

Personal Protective Equipment Recommendations for Crew Members

- Crewmembers should consult with their employers and public health officials on minimizing risk associated with contact with people exhibiting symptoms consistent with COVID-19 in the proper use, storage, and disposal of personal protective equipment (PPE). Wrong use or handling of PPE can increase the spread of disease.
- Wear impermeable, disposable gloves if crewmembers need to have direct contact with sick people or potentially contaminated surfaces, rooms, or lavatories used by sick passengers and crewmembers. Instruct crewmembers to wash their hands with soap and water or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer after removing gloves. Discard used gloves in the trash and don't wash or save for reuse. Mariners should avoid touching their faces with gloved or unwashed hands.
- Wearing N-95 respirators or facemasks is not generally recommended for crewmembers engaged in general work activities. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has suspended N95 annual fit testing requirements for healthcare employers ONLY per Temporary Enforcement Guidance issued March 14, 2020 (<https://www.osha.gov/memos/2020-03-14/temporary-enforcement-guidance-healthcare-respiratory-protection-annual-fit>).

If you have any questions please contact the Houma OOD at: (985)665-2437



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