



Marine Safety Information Bulletin

Commander (s)
U.S. Coast Guard
Sector Mobile
1500 15th Street
Mobile, AL 36615

MSIB Number: 16-20
Date: March 18, 2020



COVID-19 VESSEL PRECAUTIONS

Time: 4:00 P.M. / Date: Wednesday, March 18, 2020

In order to mitigate the community spread of COVID-19 Sector Mobile recommends all vessels take the following precautions:

1. In the hour prior to entering port, embarking a Pilot or taking on passengers, wipe down all accessible surfaces with a disinfectant. Pay particular attention to areas where passengers, pilots, and crew may have direct contact such as handrails, countertops, doorknobs, bathroom fixtures, toilets, bridge equipment, windows, and helm.
2. Crewmembers, Pilots, and passengers should wash their hands frequently with soap and water for 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use a hand sanitizer containing 60%-95% alcohol. Vessels should make every effort to ensure availability of conveniently located dispensers of alcohol-based hand sanitizer and where sinks are available, ensure handwashing supplies (such as soap, disposable towels) are available.
3. Crewmembers, Pilots, and passengers should avoid touching their eyes, nose, and mouth. If coughing or sneezing is necessary, stay as far away from others as possible while also covering their mouth/nose, and immediately follow with hand washing or sanitizing.
4. Social distancing should be encouraged and close contact within 6 ft should be avoided if at all possible.

Commercial vessel operations typically involve the movement of large numbers of people in closed and semi-closed settings. This environment can facilitate transmission of respiratory viruses such as COVID-19 from person to person through exposure to respiratory droplets from coughing or sneezing of an infected person or contact with contaminated surfaces. The practices above are meant to curb the risk of transmission while onboard vessels and prevent further spread into the community. More information relating to COVID-19 can be found in MSIB 02/20:


https://www.dco.uscg.mil/Portals/9/DCO%20Documents/5p/MSIB/2020/MSIB-02-20_Change-3_Novel-Coronavirus.pdf?ver=2020-03-17-091856-473

U.S. Flagged vessels shall follow the following reporting requirements if during a voyage, a crewmember or passenger starts to exhibit symptoms of a communicable disease (COVID-19):

1. 42 CFR 70.4: As soon as practicable, notify the local health authority at the next port of call, station, or stop, and shall take such measures to prevent the spread of the disease as the local health authority directs.
2. 33 CFR 160.216: The vessel shall report the condition to the nearest Coast Guard Sector Office.

For further guidance to prevent the spread of COVID-19, please refer to the CDC website:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>


L. A. ALLEN
Captain, U. S. Coast Guard
Captain of the Port

Please visit us on the internet at <http://homeport.uscg.mil/mobile>