



Marine Safety Information Bulletin

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

MSIB Number: 17-20
Date: March 20, 2020



COVID-19 PILOT/VESSEL INTERFACE

Time: 12:00 P.M. / Date: Friday, March 20, 2020

In order to mitigate community spread of COVID-19 Sector Mobile recommends **ALL** vessels take the following precautions and Pilots should make these steps part of Master-Pilot Exchange (MPX):

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: chart tables, handrails, countertops, doorknobs, bathroom fixtures, toilets, bridge equipment, windows, and helm.
2. Any crew member entering the bridge should thoroughly wash their hands and face prior to entering the bridge, and their hands again immediately upon entering.
3. 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.
4. 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. Additionally, throughout the transit, Crews/Pilots onboard are encouraged to regularly wipe down any surface they come into contact with, such as pens/pencils, binoculars, radar control panels, ECDIS control panels, PPU's, VHF radios, etc.
5. Social distancing should be encouraged and close contact within 6-ft should be avoided if at all possible.
6. If the Pilot or any bridge member is in a non-critical area of navigation and feels that they may need to cough or sneeze then they are encouraged to step to the bridge wing or exterior of the wheelhouse and do so. If the area of navigation or layout of the wheelhouse does not permit this action then the individual shall cover their mouth/nose and orient themselves in a direction away from others. When safe to do so, they shall proceed with wiping down of the surfaces in their immediate vicinity.
7. Allow only essential personnel in the wheelhouse and any member on the bridge shall sanitize their hands immediately after touching their face, Pilot included.
8. Eating while on the bridge should be avoided when possible.
9. Provide access to the bridge via external means (ladder or stairs).
10. Pilots and guests should not use ship's utensils while onboard, including pens, pencils, and coffee cups.

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 on the Coast Guard MSIB webpage under year 2020: <https://www.dco.uscg.mil/Featured-Content/Mariners/Marine-Safety-Information-Bulletins-MSIB/>

Recommended General Personal Health Safety Practices

1. Change into clean work uniform (coveralls) prior to each mission.
2. Wash fabric coveralls/uniform with approved cleaners*.
3. Do not wear uniform, gear, backpacks, boots, etc, home.

Arriving Vessel Reminders

1. Continuously review the guidance on CDC's website and implement all possible measures to prevent and reduce the spread of COVID-19.
2. Per CDC guidance issued to each vessel arriving in Sector Mobile area of responsibility (AOR), all vessels arriving to, or docked in Sector Mobile Captain of the Port (COTP) zone are directed to notify the USCG if any crew or passenger is exhibiting the following criteria:
 - a. Fever AND symptoms of lower respiratory illness (e.g., cough, shortness of breath), AND in the last 14 days before symptom onset, a history of travel from a country or countries that the CDC has listed as a Level 3 precaution area OR close contact with a person who is under investigation for COVID-19 while that person was ill. Please note that fever may not be present in some patients, such as those who are very young, elderly, immunosuppressed, or taking certain medications; or,
 - b. Fever OR symptoms of lower respiratory illness (e.g., cough, shortness of breath), and in the last 14 days before symptom onset, close contact with a laboratory-confirmed ill COVID-19 patient.
3. Upon receiving a report of the above, Sector Mobile in consultation with CDC, State and county health officials will discuss appropriate course of action.
4. Any action will be communicated to the pilots and receiving facility immediately.

Recommended Health Safety Actions Upon Boarding For State or Federal Pilots

1. Conduct an interview of the Master or representative of the vessel:
 - a. Is there anyone onboard who is sick or showing symptoms of sickness?
 - b. Has anyone displayed signs of a fever? Cough? Shortness of breath?
NOTE: Recommend having CDC site on mobile device
 - c. Of those, is anyone showing symptoms of sickness?
 - d. Has anyone aboard come into contact with a known person who tested positive for a communicable disease in the last 14 days?
2. If the answer is yes to any of the above, take preventive measures outlined above or latest CDC guidance and notify Sector Mobile Command Center.

Additional Resources

*Approved cleaning agents are captured on the CDC webpage and updated regularly. The following link has information about disinfecting:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/home/cleaning-disinfection.html>

The following link can be accessed from the above link but was the most current published list of anti-viral cleaners as of 03MAR2020:

https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2020-03/documents/sars-cov-2-list_03-03-2020.pdf

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>