

MARINE SAFETY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Volume XX Issue: 046

Time: 1330

Date: April 17, 2020

COVID-19 Precautionary Practices

In order to promote safety and limit the risk of spread of COVID-19 to the Lower Mississippi River maritime community, the Captain of the Port New Orleans recommends the following precautions:

1. Limit visitors coming on board the vessel.
 - a. Prior to vessel's arrival, the Agent shall inform the Master of the expected number of official port personnel scheduled to board the vessel on arrival and upon berthing.
 - b. Limit visitors coming aboard the vessel to pilots and port personnel required for official ships business and cargo operations.
 - c. Encourage loading masters not to board the vessel for pre-loading conference and do it via radio instead.
 - d. Exchange ship and cargo documents via email to the extent possible.
2. Conduct all ship's business on deck in open air whenever possible.
 - a. Port personnel should avoid entering ship accommodations spaces.
 - b. Where possible, arrange on deck a temporary "cargo office/table" to conduct business.
 - c. In the hour prior to Boarding Party's arrival and/or berthing, the ship's crew should wipe down the on-deck meeting area with disinfectant.
 - i. This includes table, chairs, door handles, windows, sink, faucet handles, etc.
 - ii. Wipe down the nearest bathroom that will be utilized, including door handles for access ways, sink, faucet, toilet, etc.
 - iii. Disposable alcohol wipes should be made available on the table.
 - d. Cargo sampling – Done by vessel's crew on behalf of the surveyor when possible.
 - i. Surveyor and crew members should maintain two meters distancing.
 - ii. Documents required by surveyor (ullage reports, etc.) should be sent electronically or exchanged on deck.
 - iii. Any on board pre-loading conference, should take place out on deck.
 - iv. Limit loading masters/cargo surveyors from entering ship's accommodation.
3. Crew personnel and ship visitors are encouraged to:

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- a. "BE A HERO - MASK UP!" <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>
 - i. The ship's crew members are encouraged to wear face masks in common areas and/or while conducting business with port personnel.
 - ii. All visitors boarding the vessel are encouraged to wear face masks while on board. Gloves are recommended.
- b. Keep safe physical distancing with others, recommend 6 feet (2 meters) as possible.
- c. No handshaking, eating or drinking on board.
- d. Additional guidance for ships can be found at the Center for Disease Control at: <https://www.cdc.gov/quarantine/maritime/recommendations-for-ships.html>

These precautions are intended to promote social distancing and mitigate the threat of COVID-19 transmission.

For further information, contact the following:

Coast Guard Sector New Orleans Command Center (24 hours): (504) 365-2543

Coast Guard Sector New Orleans Waterways Management: (504) 365-2280



CAPTAIN K. M. LUTTRELL
Captain of the Port New Orleans

For a current list of MSIBs in the COTP New Orleans Zone visit: <https://homeport.uscg.mil/port-directory/new-orleans> under "Safety Notifications"