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Infectious and Communicable Disease

1. Introduction

- 1.1 To establish infectious and communicable disease knowledge, guidelines, and prevention procedures for all McAllister personnel.


2. Responsibility

- 2.1 Senior Managers are responsible for providing information and support to ensure implementation and compliance with this procedure.
- 2.2 General Managers or his designee is responsible for implementing and ensuring compliance with these procedures at shore facilities.
- 2.3 The Master is responsible for implementing and ensuring compliance with these procedures on assigned vessel.
- 2.4 All McAllister employees are responsible for following the procedures set forth in this document and for any additional local requirements as may be put in place by the General Manager or vessel Master.

3. Definitions

- 3.1 Infections diseases are an illness caused by a specific infectious agent which can be spread from one individual to another.
- 3.2 Transmission may be through direct contact or by indirect transmission by way of objects.
- .1 Examples of direct transmission
 - (1) Droplets from coughing, sneezing, spitting or talking
 - (2) Sexual contact
 - (3) Physical contact with bodily fluids and/or blood
 - .2 Examples of indirect transmission
 - (1) Airborne - Infection agent collets on dust or is suspended in the air
 - (2) Touching contaminated objects: utensils, food, water, doorknobs, elevator buttons, hand rails, phones, clothing, bed linens, etc.
- 3.3 Examples of infectious diseases are but not limited to: Malaria, Strep Throat, Influenza, HIV/AIDS, Measles, Mumps, Rubella, SARS, MERS, Novel Coronavirus (2019-NCoV), Tuberculosis, Common Cold, Chicken Pox, Hepatitis (A, B, C), etc.

4. Prevention

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- 4.1 The best way to prevent infection is to avoid exposure. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends every day preventive actions to help the spread of viruses:
- .1 Get vaccinated if available
 - .2 Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer
 - .3 Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth
 - .4 Avoid close contact with people who are sick whenever possible. If this is unavoidable due to job responsibilities, employees should use a surgical mask to cover their mouth and nose.
 - .5 Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash
 - .6 Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces. Follow SA-99-999-125 Workplace Health and Hygiene procedure
 - .7 If in contact with blood or other potentially infectious materials follow SA-99-999-350 Bloodborne Pathogens Procedure
 - .8 If traveling outside the country, refer to information provided by the World Health Organization and the U.S. Department of State

5. Notification

- 5.1 Some illnesses can be mild and medical treatment or medication (prescription or over the counter) is not needed. If you are employed on a vessel and taking medication, follow reporting procedures found in the HR-99-999-100 Human Resources Manual.
- 5.2 If you feel that you may have been exposed or feel ill, report this condition to your supervisor.

6. Actions - General

- 6.1 If you are sick stay home (if possible) and avoid contact with people except to get medical care.
- 6.2 Covering your mouth with a tissue when coughing or sneezing and consider using a mask.
- 6.3 Depending on the severity of the illness/disease and if you are in high risk group (including young children, people 65 and older, pregnant women, and people with certain medical conditions), seek professional medical treatment.
- 6.4 Follow advice of medical professionals and follow up with your primary care physician as needed.
- 6.5 Avoid handling and/or preparing food or drink for consumption by other people.

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6.6 Continue with preventative actions.

7. Actions - Onboard

7.1 Masters shall:

- .1 Ensure that the crew are aware of the risks, how an illness can be spread and how to reduce the risk.
- .2 Monitor the crew for any symptoms.
- .3 Report to dispatch any occurring symptoms immediately. As a reminder, illness of a person onboard a 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 immediately reported to the U.S. Coast Guard Captain of the Port (COTP) under 33 CFR 160.206.
- .4 Implement the following list of measures onboard when a crew member shows symptoms of a communicable disease until such time, they are able to get off the vessel:
 - (1) Place patient in their stateroom or in an isolation room designated by the Captain, and keep the patient's doors closed;
 - (2) Provide information about the risk of disease transmission to persons who will take care of the patient or enter the stateroom or isolation area;
 - (3) Maintain a log listing everybody who enters the stateroom or isolation area;
 - (4) Anyone entering the stateroom to provide care to the person in isolation or to clean the stateroom must wear appropriate PPE. A mask and gloves are particularly important;
 - (5) Limit the movement and transport of the patient from the cabin for essential purposes only. If movement is necessary, the patient should be wearing a surgical mask;
 - (6) Start incident investigation immediately. Wear appropriate PPE when interviewing the patient;

8. Additional Resources

- 8.1 Center for Disease Control and Prevention www.cdc.gov
- 8.2 World Health Organization www.who.int
- 8.3 Mayo Clinic www.mayoclinic.org
- 8.4 US Department of State Travel Advisories
<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/traveladvisories.html/>