

ANAVE – Circular de Régimen Interior

Madrid, 19 de febrero de 2020

Ref: SMA 9/2020/AB

Asunto: Coronavirus: recomendaciones a seguir por los armadores

Muy Srs. nuestros:

El 31 de diciembre de 2019, se alertó a la Organización Mundial de la Salud (OMS) de varios casos de neumonía en la ciudad de Wuhan (provincia china de Hubei). Posteriormente, el 7 de enero de 2020, las autoridades chinas confirmaron que habían identificado un nuevo virus de la familia de los coronavirus que incluyen los que causan el resfriado común y enfermedades respiratorias agudas.

El 11 de febrero, la OMS anunció que el nombre oficial de la enfermedad causada por el coronavirus es COVID - 19 (abreviatura de "Coronavirus Disease 2019"). La OMS está trabajando con las autoridades chinas, gobiernos y expertos de todo el mundo para difundir rápidamente los conocimientos científicos que se tienen sobre el nuevo virus, seguir de cerca su propagación y virulencia, y proporcionar asesoramiento sobre las medidas que se pueden adoptar para proteger la salud pública y evitar la propagación de este brote.

La Cámara Naviera Internacional (ICS) está llevando a cabo un seguimiento muy exhaustivo de la evolución de esta enfermedad y su repercusión en el transporte marítimo. Recientemente, ha creado un foro de información electrónica (*e-room*) que incluye recomendaciones de la OMS y de las administraciones marítimas, que se va actualizando periódicamente, en relación con el Coronavirus.

Las **empresas que deseen acceder a dicho foro** deben contactar con Mrs. Natalie Shaw, Directora de relaciones laborales y asuntos sociales en ICS, en el email: Natalie.Shaw@ics-shipping.org, indicando el nombre de la empresa y persona que solicita el acceso, así como su dirección de correo electrónico. En las 24 horas siguientes a la recepción de la solicitud, se configurará el acceso correspondiente al foro.

Es fundamental que las compañías y los buques sigan las recomendaciones de la OMS para asegurarse de que cumplen las normas sanitarias internacionales, así como las indicaciones y directrices emitidas por los Estados de bandera, Estados rectores del puerto (PSC) y los países de origen de los marinos.

Además, ICS recomienda a las compañías que revisen las páginas *web* de los posibles puertos con restricciones portuarias a nivel global, ya que cada vez más países en todo el mundo están anunciando nuevas restricciones a los buques y tripulaciones que han hecho escala en puertos de la China continental para tratar de combatir la propagación del coronavirus.

La empresa *Wilhelmsen Ships Service* ha desarrollado la **herramienta online de uso gratuito** "[Coronavirus – Global Port Restrictions Map](#)". Al pulsar en cada puerto o país, se abre una pantalla desplegable en la que se indican las restricciones en cada lugar. Este mapa se actualiza 2 veces al día y los lugares que se han actualizado en las últimas 24 horas aparecen resaltados en color naranja.

Varias agencias y organismos internacionales están elaborando orientaciones relacionadas con este asunto. El 3 de febrero, la *EU Healthy Gateways Joint Action* publicó el documento: “*Interim advice for preparedness and response to cases of 2019-nCoV acute respiratory disease at points of entry in the EU/EEA members - Advice for ship operators for preparedness and response to the outbreak of 2019-nCoV acute respiratory disease*”, que les adjuntamos en el **Anexo 1**.

Por si fuera de su interés, les enviamos en los **Anexos 2 y 3** la siguiente información:

- Circular de la OMI: “*Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV)*”, publicada el 31 de enero 2020.
- Última circular actualizada de ICS sobre la situación actual del brote de coronavirus a nivel global, de 17 de febrero 2020.

Muy atentamente,

Manuel Carlier
Director General

-----<<<
Confidencialidad: La información contenida en esta circular es confidencial y va dirigida exclusivamente a las empresas navieras asociadas a ANAVE para su uso interno. La copia o distribución pública, incluso por parte de las propias empresas asociadas, está en principio prohibida, salvo autorización expresa de ANAVE. En particular, queda expresamente prohibida la difusión de esta información por medios de comunicación pública escritos o electrónicos. Si por error recibe este e-mail se ruega su comunicación al remitente y su inmediata destrucción, no debiéndose enviar a otro destinatario.

Confidentiality: *The information contained in this message is confidential and addressed to ANAVE's member companies for their internal use only. Any dissemination or copying of this information, even by the member companies is in principle prohibited, unless expressly authorised by ANAVE. In particular, it is strictly forbidden the publication of this information by public media, either written or electronic. If you receive this message by error then you may not copy or deliver this message to anyone, but please destroy this message and notify us immediately.*

Advertencia de seguridad: Este mensaje ha sido comprobado por un sistema antivirus interno y externo regularmente actualizado. En todo caso, compruebe que todos los mensajes que recibe son filtrados por su propio sistema de seguridad antes de su apertura.

Security warning: *This email has been scanned for viruses by our regularly updated email security systems but, in accordance with good computer practice, please ensure that all messages received are checked by your own security systems before opening.*

>>>-----

**INTERIM ADVICE
FOR PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE TO CASES OF 2019-nCoV
ACUTE RESPIRATORY DISEASE AT POINTS OF ENTRY IN THE
EUROPEAN UNION (EU)/EEA MEMBER STATES (MS)**

**Advice for ship operators for preparedness and
response to the outbreak of 2019-nCoV acute
respiratory disease**

Version 2

3 February 2020

Introduction

This interim advice was prepared after a request from the European Commission's Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety (DG SANTE). An ad-hoc working group was established with members from the EU HEALTHY GATEWAYS joint action consortium. Names and affiliations of the working group members who prepared this document are listed at the end of the document.

The working group produced the following advice, considering current evidence, the temporary recommendations from the World Health Organization (WHO) and the technical reports of the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) about the 2019-nCoV acute respiratory disease outbreak (as of 3 February 2020).

1. Maritime transport – cruise ship travel

1.1. Minimizing the risk for introduction of persons with acute respiratory syndrome due to 2019-nCoV acute respiratory disease outbreak onto the ship

Travel companies and travel agencies may provide pre-travel information to customers about health issues with their travel package. In this context, information regarding the symptoms of 2019-nCoV acute respiratory disease, health risks for vulnerable groups and the importance of preventive measures such as delaying travel may be provided before the voyage, especially to persons coming from or passing through the affected areas².

Before boarding, information may be provided to passengers and crew who are coming from affected areas, or to all passengers and crew before embarking (e.g. verbal communications, leaflets, electronic posters etc.). The information should include: symptoms of Acute Respiratory Illness (ARI) including fever and sudden onset of respiratory infection with one or more of the following symptoms: shortness of breath, cough or sore throat; hygiene rules (hand washing, coughing and sneezing etiquette, disposal of dirty tissues, social distancing, elimination of handshaking events etc.); special considerations for high-risk groups; what to do in case of relevant symptoms; and the potential for an outbreak on board¹.

Crew arriving on board from affected areas (as defined by WHO in the website <https://www.who.int/>) should be informed about the symptoms of ARI. Further, they should be monitored daily by a health care staff on board for 14 days after leaving the affected area for any symptoms of ARI, and be asked to immediately report any relevant symptoms to the ship doctor and supervisor.

² Affected areas are defined by WHO in the latest statement of the International Health Regulations (2005) Emergency Committee regarding the outbreak of 2019-nCoV acute respiratory disease published in: <https://www.who.int/>.

Cruise ships visiting affected areas should provide information to passengers and crew in accordance with the WHO advice (or official country-specific advice) for international travel and trade in relation to the outbreak of 2019-nCoV acute respiratory disease^{2,3} including:

- a) Frequently cleaning your hands by using an alcohol-based hand rub or soap and water.
- b) When coughing and sneezing covering your mouth and nose with a flexed elbow or tissue – throw tissue away immediately and wash hands.
- c) Avoiding close contact with anyone who has fever and cough.
- d) Seeking immediate medical care if you develop fever, cough and difficulty breathing and sharing your previous travel history with your health care provider.
- e) Avoid visiting live markets in areas currently experiencing cases of 2019-nCoV acute respiratory disease.
- f) When participating in excursions ashore, avoiding the consumption of raw or undercooked animal products. Raw meat, milk or animal organs should be handled with care, to avoid cross-contamination with uncooked foods, as per good food safety practices.

1.2. Education and raising passenger and crew awareness

1.2.1. Raising crew awareness for detection of cases on board

Healthcare staff should be informed and updated about the outbreak of 2019-nCoV acute respiratory disease and any new evidence and guidance available for health care staff.

Cruise lines should provide guidance to crew regarding the recognition of the signs and symptoms of ARI including fever and sudden onset of respiratory infection with one or more of the following symptoms: shortness of breath, cough or sore throat.

Crew should be reminded of the procedures that are to be followed when a passenger or a crew member on board displays signs and symptoms indicative of ARI (for example to inform their designated supervisor/manager or medical staff, and perform duties based on instructions from their supervisor depending on the position etc.). Crew should also be reminded about the procedures to be followed during an outbreak of other respiratory illnesses, such as using the Influenza Like Illness outbreak management plan, which should be available on board the ship¹.

Information about immediate reporting of relevant symptoms to supervisors and the medical team, for both themselves and other crew or passengers, should be provided to all crew.

1.2.2. Personal hygiene measures

Cruise lines should continue to provide guidance and training of their crews, related to reducing the general risk of ARI:

- Hand washing techniques (use of soap and water, rubbing hands for at least 20 seconds etc.)

- When hand washing is essential (e.g. after assisting an ill traveller or after contact with environmental surfaces they may have contaminated etc.)
- When hand rubbing with an antiseptic can be used, instead of hand washing and how this can be done
- Respiratory etiquette during coughing and sneezing with disposable tissues or clothing
- Appropriate waste disposal
- Use of respiratory masks
- Avoiding close contact with people suffering from acute respiratory infections²

1.3. Supplies and equipment

Adequate medical supplies and equipment should be available on board to respond to an outbreak as described in the WHO (2007) recommended medicines and equipment by the International Medical Guide for Ships 3rd edition.

Adequate supplies of sample medium and packaging, disinfectants and hand hygiene supplies should also be carried on board¹.

Adequate supplies of PPE should be carried on board including gloves, impermeable gowns, goggles, surgical masks and FFP2/ FFP3 masks.

Further details about supplies specific to the 2019-nCoV acute respiratory disease can be found at: <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/technical-guidance>

1.4. Management of a suspect case

A flow diagram for the management of a suspect case and contacts, as well as the procedures of free pratique from the time of identification of a suspect case, until the ship will be allowed to depart can be downloaded from the following link:

https://www.healthygateways.eu/Portals/0/plcdocs/Flow_chart_Ships_3_2_2020.pdf

1.4.1. Definition of a suspect case of 2019-nCoV acute respiratory disease

According to ECDC, the definition of a suspect case requiring diagnostic testing is as follows⁴: Patients with acute respiratory infection (sudden onset of at least one of the following: cough, sore throat, shortness of breath) requiring hospitalisation or not, **AND** in the 14 days prior to onset of symptoms, met at least one of the following three epidemiological criteria: were in close contact with a confirmed or probable case of 2019-nCoV acute respiratory disease; **or** had a history of travel to areas with presumed ongoing community transmission of 2019-nCoV; **or** worked in or attended a health care facility where patients with 2019-nCoV acute respiratory disease were being treated.

1.4.2. Definition of a contact of a suspect case of 2019-nCoV acute respiratory disease

It is advised that contact tracing activities begin immediately after a suspect case is identified, in order to find the close contacts and allow all other travellers to continue their activities without restrictions. The close contacts can be requested to remain on board until the laboratory results of the suspect case become available. If the laboratory results are positive, then the measures to be applied to closed contacts are described in paragraph 1.4.7. For the purpose of beginning contact tracing immediately and avoiding delays of travels, the following definitions have been developed to be applied on board ships, adapting the definitions by WHO and ECDC^{5,6}.

Close contact (high risk exposure):

- a person who has stayed in the same cabin with a suspect 2019-nCoV acute respiratory disease case;
- cabin steward who cleaned the cabin of the suspect 2019-nCoV acute respiratory disease case;
- a person who has had face-to-face contact or was in a closed environment with a suspect 2019-nCoV acute respiratory disease case, including participating with them in on board or ashore activities, or dining at the same table;
- a person in the same immediate travelling group participating in common activities on board or ashore;
- a healthcare worker or other person providing direct care for a 2019-nCoV acute respiratory disease suspect case.

Casual contact (low risk exposure):

- Casual contacts are difficult to define on board a confined space such as a cruise ship, therefore, it is advised to consider as casual contacts all travellers on board the ship who do not fulfill the criteria for the definition of a close contact.

1.4.3. Precautions at the ship medical facility

All patients should be asked to cover their nose and mouth with a tissue when coughing or sneezing. Thorough hand washing should take place after any contact with respiratory secretions⁷.

WHO advises that the suspect patient should be asked to wear a surgical mask as soon as they are identified and be evaluated in a private room with the door closed, ideally in an isolation room if available. Any person entering the room should apply standard precautions, contact precautions and airborne precautions.

Healthcare workers in contact with a suspect case of 2019-nCoV acute respiratory disease, should wear PPE for contact, droplet and airborne transmission of pathogens: FFP2 or FFP3 respirator tested for fitting, eye protection (e.g. goggles or face shield), a long-sleeved water-resistant gown and gloves⁸.

Detailed advice can be found at: [https://www.who.int/publications-detail/clinical-management-of-severe-acute-respiratory-infection-when-novel-coronavirus-\(ncov\)-infection-is-suspected](https://www.who.int/publications-detail/clinical-management-of-severe-acute-respiratory-infection-when-novel-coronavirus-(ncov)-infection-is-suspected) and <https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/publications-data/infection-prevention-and-control-care-patients-2019-ncov-healthcare-settings>

1.4.4. Isolation

Following preliminary medical examination, if the ship's medical officer determines that there is a suspect case of 2019-nCoV acute respiratory disease on board that meets the definition described in paragraph 1.4.1, the suspect case should be isolated in an isolation ward, cabin, room or quarters and infection control measures should be continued until they no longer have respiratory symptoms.

All persons entering the isolation room should apply standard precautions, contact precautions and airborne precautions.

However, if the illness does not meet the suspect case definition (paragraph 1.4.1) but the individual has respiratory symptoms, the individual should not be allowed to return to public areas of the ship or interact with the public, but where applicable should be asked to follow the standard procedure for isolation of individuals with Influenza Like Illness¹. Detailed guidance is provided in the European Manual for Hygiene Standards and Communicable Disease Surveillance on Passenger Ships, Part B, Guideline I: <http://www.shipsan.eu/Home/EuropeanManual.aspx>

All contacts of a suspect case on board a ship should be identified and monitored as described in paragraph 1.4.7.

1.4.5. Laboratory testing

Laboratory examination of clinical specimens for the persons who meet the definition of a suspect case should be arranged in cooperation with the competent authorities at the port. The competent authority will inform the ship officers about the laboratory test results.

Guidance for clinical specimens collection are provided by WHO⁹ at: <https://www.who.int/publications-detail/laboratory-testing-for-2019-novel-coronavirus-in-suspected-human-cases-20200117>

1.4.6. Reporting and notification

The competent authority of the next port of call must always be informed if a suspect case of an infectious disease or death has occurred on board (IHR 2005, Article 28)¹⁰. For ships on international voyage, the International Health Regulations (IHR) Maritime Declaration of Health (MDH) should be completed and sent to the competent authority in accordance with the local requirements at the port of call.

The officer in charge of the ship should immediately alert the competent authority at the next port of call (and the cruise line head office) regarding the suspect case to determine if the necessary capacity for transportation, isolation, and care is available at the port. The ship may be asked to proceed to another port in close proximity if this capacity is not available or if warranted by the critical medical status of the suspect case of 2019-nCoV acute respiratory disease.

1.4.7. Contact tracing and management of contacts

The passenger or crew member that meets the definition of a suspect case should be interviewed and provide information about the places that the patient visited and about his/her contacts, including the period from one day before the onset of symptoms on board the ship or ashore.

All contacts should be listed with their contact details and information regarding the places where they will be staying for the following 14 days. Furthermore, all contacts should be classified as contacts that have had high risk exposure ('close contact') or low risk exposure ('casual contacts').

Management of contacts

All contacts that fulfil the definition of a "close contact" (see paragraph 1.4.2) should be asked to complete the Passenger Locator Forms and remain on board the ship at their cabins or at a facility ashore, in accordance with instructions received by the competent authorities, until the laboratory results for the suspect case are available.

If the laboratory results of the suspect case are positive, then they should disembark and be quarantined ashore in accordance with the instructions provided by the competent authorities.

According to the ECDC technical report quarantine measures will include: active monitoring by the public health authorities for 14 days from last exposure, daily monitoring for 2019-nCoV acute respiratory disease symptoms (including fever of any grade, cough or difficulty breathing), avoiding social contact, avoiding travel, and remaining reachable for active monitoring⁵.

Persons in contact with a confirmed case should immediately self-isolate and contact health services in the event of any symptom appearing within 14 days. If no symptoms appear within 14 days of their last exposure, the contact person is no longer considered to be at risk of developing 2019-nCoV acute respiratory disease⁵.

Implementation of these specific precautions may be modified depending on the risk assessment of individual cases and their contacts conducted by the public health authorities.

All casual contacts should be requested to complete Passenger Locator Forms with their contact details and the locations where they will be staying for the following 14 days. All casual contacts (see definition in paragraph 1.4.2) of a suspect case of 2019-nCoV acute respiratory disease should be informed about the suspect case on board. They should be allowed to continue with their planned activities without any restrictions (e.g. continue the voyage, disembark, or continue with onward travel etc.). Implementation of these precautions may be modified depending on the risk assessment of individual cases and their contacts conducted by the public health authorities. Further instructions may be given by the health authorities.

If the laboratory results of the suspect case are positive, then casual contacts should be provided with the following information and advice:

- Details of symptoms and how the disease can be transmitted.
- They should be asked to self-monitor for 2019-nCoV acute respiratory disease symptoms, including fever of any grade, cough or difficulty breathing, for 14 days from their last exposure.
- They should be asked to immediately self-isolate and contact health services in the event of any symptom appearing within 14 days. If no symptoms appear within 14 days of their

last exposure, the contact person is no longer considered to be at risk of developing 2019-nCoV acute respiratory disease⁵.

Both embarking and disembarking ports must be notified immediately of contacts being on board and the measures taken.

1.5. Disembarkation

If the medical officer for the port determines that the ill crew member or passenger meets the definition of a suspect case of 2019-nCoV acute respiratory disease (see paragraph 1.4.1), the crew member or passenger should disembark in a controlled way to avoid any contact with other persons on board the ship and wear a surgical mask. Personnel escorting the patient during the medical evacuation should wear suitable PPE (gloves, impermeable gown, goggles, mask).

As soon as the suspect case has been removed from the cruise ship, the cabin or quarters where the suspect case was isolated and managed, the cabin or quarters should be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected.

The competent authority should give free pratique when they are satisfied that the public health measures have been implemented satisfactorily. The public health authority should ensure that the following measures have been implemented satisfactorily: disembarkation of the suspect case or cases, completion of the PLFs contact tracing, disembarkation of close contacts, information to all travellers on board about the symptoms and signs of the disease, who to contact in case the relevant symptoms develop in the following 14 days, cleaning and disinfection, and disposal of infectious waste. After measures have been completed satisfactorily, the ship should be allowed to continue the voyage.

1.6. Record keeping in the medical log

Records should be kept about the following:

- a) any person on board who has visited the medical facility and meets the definition of a suspect case of 2019-nCoV acute respiratory disease described in paragraph 1.4.1. and the isolation and hygiene measures taken at the isolation place;
- b) any person meeting the definition of a close contact and casual contact described in paragraph 1.4.2 and the results of monitoring of his/her health;
- c) contact details of casual contacts who will disembark and the locations where they will be staying in the following 14 days (completed PLFs);
- d) results of active surveillance.

1.7. Active surveillance (case finding)

Case finding among passengers and crew should be initiated by the ship's medical staff in order to detect any new suspect cases. Case finding should include directly contacting passengers (e.g.

passenger surveys) and crew, asking about current and recent illness, and checking if any person meets the criteria of a suspect case. Findings should be recorded.

1.8.Cleaning and disinfection

The time of environmental survival of 2019-nCoV is currently unknown. SARS-CoV may survive in the environment for several days. MERS-CoV may survive >48hours at 20°C, 40% relative humidity comparable to an indoor environment, on plastic and metal surfaces¹¹.

While case management is in progress on board a cruise ship, a high level of cleaning and disinfection measures should be maintained on board as per the outbreak management plan available on the ship.

Cabins and quarters occupied by patients and contacts of 2019-nCoV acute respiratory disease should be cleaned and disinfected according to cleaning and disinfection protocols of infected cabins (as per protocols for Norovirus gastroenteritis outbreak level). Thorough cleaning of environmental surfaces with water and detergent and application of common disinfectants (such as sodium hypochlorite) used during outbreak procedures for Norovirus should be applied.

Laundry, food service utensils and waste from cabins of suspect cases and contacts should be handled as infectious, in accordance with the outbreak management plan provided on board for other infectious diseases (Norovirus gastroenteritis).

2. Maritime transport – Cargo ship travel

2.1. Minimizing the risk for introduction of persons with acute respiratory syndrome due to 2019-nCoV acute respiratory disease onto the ship

Crew arriving on board from affected areas or crew on ships visiting affected areas should be informed about the symptoms of ARI (fever and sudden onset of respiratory infection with one or more of the following symptoms: shortness of breath, cough or sore throat). Further, they should be asked to immediately report any relevant symptoms to the designated officer.

Ships visiting affected areas should provide information to crew according to the WHO advice for international travel and trade in relation to the outbreak of pneumonia caused by 2019-nCoV acute respiratory disease^{2,3} including:

- a) Frequently cleaning your hands by using an alcohol-based hand rub or soap and water.
- b) When coughing and sneezing covering your mouth and nose with a flexed elbow or tissue – throw tissue away immediately and wash hands.
- c) Avoiding close contact with anyone who has fever and cough.
- d) Seeking immediate medical care if you develop fever, cough and difficulty breathing and sharing your previous travel history with your health care provider.
- e) Avoid visiting live markets in areas currently experiencing cases of 2019-nCoV acute respiratory disease.
- f) When participating in excursions ashore, avoiding the consumption of raw or undercooked animal products. Raw meat, milk or animal organs should be handled with care, to avoid cross-contamination with uncooked foods, as per good food safety practices.

The International Maritime Organization (IMO) has issued a Circular advising IMO Member States, seafarers and shipping at:

<http://www.imo.org/en/MediaCentre/HotTopics/Pages/Coronavirus.aspx>

2.2. Education and raising crew awareness

2.2.1. Raising crew awareness for detection of cases on board

Shipping companies should inform crew about recognition of the signs and symptoms of ARI including fever and sudden onset of respiratory infection with one or more of the following symptoms: shortness of breath, cough or sore throat. Any person with symptoms of ARI should inform the supervisor immediately.

2.2.2. Personal hygiene measures

Shipping companies should refresh training of their crew about hygiene measures:

- Hand washing technique (use of soap and water, rubbing hands for at least 20 seconds etc.)
- When hand washing is essential (e.g. after assisting an ill traveller or after contact with environmental surfaces they may have contaminated etc.)
- When hand rubbing with an antiseptic can be used, instead of hand washing and how this can be done
- Respiratory etiquette during coughing and sneezing with disposable tissues or clothing
- Appropriate waste disposal
- Use of respiratory masks
- Avoiding close contact with people suffering from acute respiratory infections²

Infographics from WHO are available at: <https://www.who.int/health-topics/coronavirus>

2.3. Supplies and equipment

Adequate medical supplies and equipment should be available on board as described in the WHO (2007) recommended medicines and equipment by the International Medical Guide for Ships 3rd edition.

Adequate supplies of PPE should be carried on board including gloves, impermeable gown, goggles and surgical masks.

Further details about supplies specific to 2019-nCoV acute respiratory disease can be found at: [https://www.who.int/internal-publications-detail/disease-commodity-package---novel-Coronavirus-\(ncov\)](https://www.who.int/internal-publications-detail/disease-commodity-package---novel-Coronavirus-(ncov))

2.4. Management of a suspect case

2.4.1. Isolation

If any person on board fulfils the following criteria, he/she should be isolated immediately and the next port of call should be informed:

Patients with acute respiratory infection (sudden onset of at least one of the following: cough, sore throat, shortness of breath) requiring hospitalisation or not, **AND** in the 14 days prior to onset of symptoms, met at least one of the following three epidemiological criteria: were in close contact with a confirmed or probable case of 2019-nCoV acute respiratory disease; **or** had a history of travel to areas with presumed ongoing community transmission of 2019-nCoV; **or** worked in or attended a health care facility where patients with 2019-nCoV acute respiratory disease were being treated. The patient should be isolated in an isolation ward, cabin, room or quarters with infection control measures⁴.

All persons entering the isolation room should apply gloves, impermeable gowns, goggles and surgical masks.

2.4.2. Reporting to the next port of call

The competent authority of the next port of call must always be informed if a suspect case of an infectious disease or death has occurred on board (IHR 2005, Article 28)¹⁰. For ships on international voyage, the International Health Regulations (IHR) Maritime Declaration of Health (MDH) should be completed and sent to the competent authority according to the local requirements at the port of call.

The officer in charge of the ship should immediately alert the competent authority at the next port of call regarding the suspect case to determine if the necessary capacity for transportation, isolation, and care is available at the port. The ship may be asked to proceed to another port in close proximity if this capacity is not available, or if warranted by the critical medical status of the suspect case of 2019-nCoV acute respiratory disease.

2.4.3. Disembarkation

Disembarkation of the ill person should take place in a controlled way to avoid any contact with other persons on board the ship and the ill person should wear a surgical mask. Personnel escorting the patient during the medical evacuation should wear suitable PPE (gloves, impermeable gown, goggles and surgical mask).

The ship may be allowed to proceed to its next port of call after the health authority has determined that public health measures have been completed satisfactorily.

2.4.4. Cleaning, disinfection and waste management

As soon as the suspect case had been removed from the ship, the cabin or quarters where the suspect case with the 2019-nCoV acute respiratory disease was isolated and managed should be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected by staff who are trained to clean surfaces contaminated with infectious agents using PPE.

Laundry, food service utensils and waste from cabins of suspect cases and contacts should be handled as infectious, in accordance with procedures for handling infectious materials available on board.

2.4.5. Management of contacts

The health authority will conduct a risk assessment and all contacts of the suspect case should be identified and follow the instructions of the public health authorities, until the laboratory results of the suspect case are available. If the laboratory examination of the suspect case is positive for 2019-nCoV acute respiratory disease, then all close contacts should be quarantined for 14 days (active monitoring by public health authorities, for 14 days from last exposure; daily monitoring for 2019-nCoV symptoms, including fever of any grade, cough or difficulty breathing; avoid social contact; avoid travel; remain reachable for active monitoring)⁵.

Working group members

Barbara Mouchtouri¹, Martin Dirksen-Fischer², Maria an der Heiden³, Mauro Dionisio⁴, Miguel Dávila-Cornejo⁵, Brigita Kairiene⁶, Janusz Janiec⁷, Sotirios Tsiodras⁸, David Schwarcz⁹, Peter Otorepec¹⁰, Boris Kopilovic¹⁰, Aura Timen¹¹, Corien Swaan¹¹, Anita Plenge-Bönig², Areti Lagiou¹², Jan Heidrich¹³, Agoritsa Baka¹⁴, Pasi Penttinen¹⁴, Paul Riley¹⁴, Matthias Boldt², and Christos Hadjichristodoulou¹

1. Laboratory of Hygiene and Epidemiology, Faculty of Medicine, University of Thessaly, Larissa, Greece
2. Institute for Hygiene and Environment of the Hamburg State Department for Health and Consumer Protection, Hamburg, Germany
3. Robert Koch Institute, Berlin, Germany
4. Italian Ministry of Health, Rome, Italy
5. Ministry of Health, Social Services and Equality, Madrid, Spain
6. National Public Health Centre, Klaipeda, Vilnius, Lithuania
7. National Institute of Public Health – National Institute of Hygiene, Warsaw, Poland
8. National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Medical School, Athens, Greece
9. Public Health Agency of Sweden, Stockholm, Sweden
10. National Institute of Public Health, Ljubljana, Slovenia
11. National Institute for Public Health and the Environment, Bilthoven, the Netherlands
12. Laboratory of Hygiene and Epidemiology, University of West Attica, Athens, Greece
13. Institute for Occupational and Maritime Medicine, Hamburg, Germany
14. European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control, Stockholm, Sweden

The working group thanks the Cruise Lines International Association and its members for their input to the chapter about cruise ship travel.

For any questions or support related to the points of entry, please email info@healthygateways.eu

References

1. EU SHIPSAN ACT JOINT ACTION (20122103) - European Commission Directorate General for Health and Food Safety. European Manual for Hygiene Standards and Communicable Diseases Surveillance on Passenger Ships. Second ed: EU SHIPSAN ACT JOINT ACTION (20122103); 2016.
2. World Health Organization. WHO advice for international travel and trade in relation to the outbreak of pneumonia caused by a new coronavirus in China. 10 January 2020 2020. https://www.who.int/ith/2020-0901_outbreak_of_Pneumonia_caused_by_a_new_coronavirus_in_C/en/ (accessed 20/1/2020).
3. World Health Organization. Updated WHO advice for international traffic in relation to the outbreak of the novel coronavirus 2019-nCoV. 27 January 2020. 2020. <https://www.who.int/ith/2020-27-01-outbreak-of-Pneumonia-caused-by-new-coronavirus/en/> (accessed 27 January 2020).
4. European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control. Case definition and European surveillance for human infection with novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV). 2020. <https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/case-definition-and-european-surveillance-human-infection-novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov>.
5. European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control. Public health management of persons having had contact with cases of novel coronavirus in the European Union. Stockholm: ECDC, 2020.
6. World Health Organization. Global Surveillance for human infection with novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV). Interim guidance v3 2020.
7. World Health Organization. Clinical management of severe acute respiratory infection when novel coronavirus (nCoV) infection is suspected. Interim guidance. 28 January 2020 2020. https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/coronaviruse/clinical-management-of-novel-cov.pdf?sfvrsn=bc7da517_2.
8. European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control. ECDC TECHNICAL REPORT. Infection prevention and control for the care of patients with 2019-nCoV in healthcare settings
Stockholm ECDC, 2020.
9. World Health Organization. Laboratory testing for 2019 novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) in suspected human cases, 2020.
10. World Health Organization. International health regulations (2005). Third ed. Geneva; 2016.
11. van Doremalen N, Bushmaker T, Munster VJ. Stability of Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV) under different environmental conditions. *Euro Surveill* 2013; **18**(38).

4 ALBERT EMBANKMENT
LONDON SE1 7SR
Telephone: +44 (0)20 7735 7611 Fax: +44 (0)20 7587 3210

Circular Letter No.4204
31 January 2020

To: All IMO Member States
Intergovernmental organizations
Non-governmental organizations in consultative status with IMO

Subject: **Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV)**

Introduction

1 The purpose of this circular is to provide information and guidance, based on recommendations developed by the World Health Organization (WHO), on the precautions to be taken to minimize risks to seafarers, passengers and others on board ships from novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV).*

Background

2 On 31 December 2019, WHO was alerted to several cases of pneumonia in Wuhan City, Hubei Province of China. Subsequently, on 7 January 2020, Chinese authorities confirmed that they had identified a new virus in the coronavirus family of viruses, which includes the common cold and viruses such as SARS and MERS. This new virus was temporarily named "2019-nCoV".

3 WHO has been working with the Chinese authorities, governments and global experts to rapidly expand scientific knowledge on the new virus, track its spread and virulence, and provide advice on measures to protect health and prevent the spread of this outbreak.

4 As of 29 January 2020, a total of 130 tests have been concluded in the United Kingdom, all of which were confirmed negative. The latest information regarding the situation in the United Kingdom can be obtained at the following address:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-information-for-the-public>

5 On 30 January 2020, WHO declared that the outbreak of novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) constituted a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC).

* For information and guidance on precautions for delegates attending IMO meetings, please refer to Circular Letter No.4203.

Symptoms

6 Common signs of infection include respiratory symptoms, fever, cough, shortness of breath and breathing difficulties. In more severe cases, infection can cause pneumonia, severe acute respiratory syndrome, kidney failure and even death. Infection from humans to humans may occur during the incubation period (before persons show signs of sickness). Coronavirus can cause more severe symptoms in people with weakened immune systems, older people, and those with long-term conditions like diabetes, cancer and chronic lung disease.

Risks

7 The current outbreak originated in Wuhan City, which is a major domestic and international transport hub. Given the large population movements and the observed human-to-human transmission, it is not unexpected that new confirmed cases will continue to appear in other areas and countries.

WHO advice

8 It is prudent to remind populations and health workers of the basic principles to reduce the general risk of transmission of acute respiratory infections by following the below-mentioned key preventative measures:

- .1 avoiding close contact with people suffering from acute respiratory infections;
- .2 frequent handwashing, especially after direct contact with ill people or their environment;
- .3 avoiding unprotected contact with farm or wild animals;
- .4 people with symptoms of acute respiratory infection should practise cough etiquette (maintain distance, cover coughs and sneezes with disposable tissues or clothing, and wash hands); and
- .5 within healthcare facilities, enhance standard infection prevention and control practices in hospitals, especially in emergency departments.

9 WHO does not recommend any specific health measures for travellers. In case of symptoms suggestive of acute respiratory illness either during or after travel, travellers are encouraged to seek medical attention and share their travel history with their healthcare provider. Health authorities should work with travel, transport and tourism sectors to provide travellers with information to reduce the general risk of acute respiratory infections via travel health clinics, travel agencies, conveyance operators and at points of entry.

10 Travellers who had contact with confirmed cases or direct exposure to a potential source of infection should be placed under medical observation. High-risk contacts should avoid travel for the duration of the incubation period (up to 14 days).

11 Novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) advice for the public published on the WHO website contains WHO standard recommendations for the general public to reduce exposure to and transmission of a range of illnesses, to protect yourself and others from getting sick, and to stay healthy while travelling. WHO provides novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) travel advice here:

<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/travel-advice>

12 With the information currently available for the novel coronavirus, WHO advises that measures to limit the risk of exportation or importation of the disease should be implemented, without unnecessary restrictions on international traffic.

13 Member States are advised to urge all stakeholders (companies, managers, crewing agents, etc.) to promulgate information to ensure that seafarers, passengers and others on board ships are provided with accurate and relevant information on the coronavirus outbreak and on the measures to reduce the risk of exposure if they are likely to be engaged on ships trading to and from ports in coronavirus-affected States.

Guidance available

14 The following links provide advice and guidance to seafarers and shipping (non-exhaustive list):

[International Maritime Health Association](#) (IMHA) advice for shipping companies on the new type of coronavirus (2019-nCoV)

[USCG Novel Coronavirus Precautions](#)

15 WHO issues advice on international travel and health. This information is regularly reviewed and updated by WHO and can be found at the following address:

www.who.int/ith/updates

Additional information can also be found at:

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2020/01/1056031>

https://www.who.int/ith/other_health_risks/en/

16 The publications listed below may also be helpful:

WHO International Health Regulations

WHO Guide to ship sanitation

International Medical Guide for Ships



This Circular and its attachments (if any) are confidential to the intended recipient and may be privileged. If you are not the intended recipient you should contact ICS and must not make any use of it.

18th February 2020

LA(20)10

To: Labour Affairs Committee

Copy: All Members

ICS NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) UPDATE AS OF 17th FEBRUARY 2020

Action Required: Members are invited to note revised information on reported cases reported by the WHO website yesterday. Sincere apologies as one of the numbers transposed and quoted in the previous circular was for Hubei province instead of mainland China. This has now been revised to reflect the correct figure for all of China.

ICS will continue to monitor the situation and will advise all members with an updated report once a week or as appropriate.

The report includes tables showing the latest case numbers and locations globally.

In addition, members are reminded that the secretariat has established an e-room containing additional advice and up to date information about coronavirus. Members or their member companies wishing to access it should notify the undersigned.

ICS advises that the first steps to take would be to follow the WHO/IMO/ILO advice to ensure ships comply with the International Health Regulations. In addition, it is important for shipowners to follow the advice and directives issued by regional organisations, flag States, port States, and Labour Supply Countries.

Highlights

- 69262 Cases reported now in 25 countries listed in table 2.
- No new countries reported cases of 2019-nCoV by WHO in the past 24 hours.
- WHO has produced a number of new technical guidance documents which are referenced in this circular and which can be downloaded from the e-room as well.

Update on Cruise Ship Diamond Princess

A plane carrying American passengers recently released from the Diamond Princess cruise ship in Japan, arrived at Travis Air Force Base in California on February 16, 2020. The U.S. State Department coordinated with the Department of Health and Human Services and other agencies, to provide a charter aircraft to bring passengers back to the U.S.

In a letter sent on Sunday morning to American passengers and crew members, the U.S. Embassy in Japan announced flights would depart Yokohama to the U.S. that day and would be the "only opportunity for eligible passengers to fly to the United States until March 4, 2020, at the earliest." Americans were bused to the aircraft and screened for coronavirus

before boarding. All travelers returning from a "high risk area" were required to complete a 14-day quarantine upon return.

Last week, Princess cruise line announced that some passengers, starting with the medically vulnerable, could leave the ship to complete their quarantine. The U.S. Embassy in Tokyo said on Friday that the first group of passengers disembarked in Yokohama, Japan, to complete their 14-day quarantine period for coronavirus off the ship.

The Princess Cruises ship was carrying 2,666 guests and 1,045 crew when it set sail and was quarantined after 10 cases of coronavirus were reported on Feb. 4.

Japan's Defense Minister Taro Kono has stated that Japanese troops helped transport 340 U.S. passengers onto 14 buses from Yokohama port to Tokyo's Haneda airport. About 380 Americans were on the cruise ship.

As the US evacuated Diamond Princess cruise passengers; 40 Americans on board tested positive for coronavirus. After arrival in the U.S., all of the passengers must have another 14 days of quarantine at military facilities therefore being under quarantine for nearly four weeks. Australia, Canada, Hong Kong, Israel and Italy were planning similar flights for nationals. Other governments, including Canada and Hong Kong will also require the passengers to undergo a second 14-day quarantine. The UK is currently reviewing whether to also charter a flight.

Japan on Monday announced another 99 infections on the Diamond Princess, raising the ship's total number of cases to 454. The United States has confirmed 15 cases within the country. Separately, one U.S. citizen died in China.

Coronavirus – Global Port Restrictions Map

ICS encourages members and shipping companies to review a website of potential ports with Global port restrictions. With countries across the globe announcing new restrictions on ships and crew that have called mainland Chinese ports to try to combat the spread of coronavirus staying fully up to date can be a complex task. Wilhelmsen Ships Service has produced an online "Coronavirus – Global Port Restrictions Map". By clicking on ports or countries users can view restrictions in each location. The map is updated twice daily and locations with updates for the previous 24 hours are highlighted and can be viewed at:

<https://wilhelmsen.com/ships-agency/campaigns/coronavirus/coronavirus-map/>

Situation in Numbers

Region	Confirmed Total Cases. As of yesterday	Risk
Globally	69262	
China - all	68584	Very High
Outside of China- deaths	4	High
Affected countries apart from China	25	High

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

WHO's strategic objectives for this response remain to:

- Limit human-to-human transmission including reducing secondary infections among close contacts and health care workers, preventing transmission amplification events, and preventing further international spread from China*;
- Identify, isolate and care for patients early, providing optimized care for infected patients;
- Identify and reduce transmission from the animal source;
- Address crucial unknowns regarding clinical severity, extent of transmission and infection, treatment options, and accelerate the development of diagnostics, therapeutics and vaccines;
- Communicate critical risk and event information to all communities and counter misinformation;
- Minimize social and economic impact through multisectoral partnerships.

*This can be achieved by a combination of public health measures, such as rapid identification, diagnosis and case management, identification and follow up of contacts, infection prevention and control in healthcare settings, implementation of health measures for travellers, awareness- raising in the population and risk communication.

PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

The latest WHO Recommendations and Advice for the public is as follows:

During previous outbreaks due to other coronavirus (Middle-East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) and Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), human-to-human transmission

occurred through droplets, contact and fomites, suggesting that the transmission mode of the CoVID-19 can be similar. The basic principles to reduce general risk of transmission of acute respiratory infections include the following:

- Avoiding close contact with people suffering from acute respiratory infections.
- Frequent hand-washing, especially after direct contact with ill people or their environment.
- Avoiding unprotected contact with farm or wild animals.
- People with acute respiratory infection symptoms should practice cough etiquette (maintain distance, cover coughs & sneezes with disposable tissues or clothing, & wash hands).
- Within health care facilities, enhance standard infection prevention and control practices in hospitals, especially in emergency departments.

WHO does not recommend any specific health measures for travellers. In case of symptoms suggestive of respiratory illness either during or after travel, travellers are encouraged to seek medical attention and share their travel history with their health care provider.

WHO is working with its networks of researchers and other experts to coordinate global work on surveillance, epidemiology, modelling, diagnostics, clinical care and treatment, and other ways to identify, manage the disease and limit onward transmission. WHO has issued regularly updated interim guidance.

WHO is working with global expert networks and partnerships for laboratory, infection prevention and control, clinical management and mathematical modelling.

Other Agencies

Various other agencies have now produced guidance relating to the Coronavirus.

One of the most practical is guidance provided by the European Union Healthy Gateways - interim advice for preparedness and response to cases of 2019-ncov acute respiratory disease at points of entry in the European Union (EU)/ EEA Member States (ms) advice for ship operators for preparedness and response to the outbreak of 2019-ncov acute respiratory disease version 2 3rd February 2020 attached at **Annex 1**.

Members may also wish to review up to date guidance issued by the CDC - the USA health protection agency if their vessels are going to transit to US Ports available at : <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

Various Flag states including Liberia, and the Marshall Islands have also issued advisory notices and shipping companies should adhere to the advice given by them particularly in relation to vessel inspections.

The following links also provide advice to seafarers and shipping:-

IMO [Circular Letter No.4204](#) (31 January 2020) provides information and guidance, based on recommendations developed by the World Health Organization (WHO), on precautions to be taken to minimize risks to seafarers, passengers and others on board ships from the coronavirus. Member States are advised to urge all stakeholders (companies, managers, crewing agents, etc.) to promulgate information to ensure that seafarers, passengers and others on board ships are provided with accurate and relevant information on the coronavirus outbreak and on the measures to reduce the risk of exposure if they are likely to be engaged on ships trading to and from ports in coronavirus-affected States.

[International Maritime Health Association](#) (IMHA) advice for shipping companies on the new type of coronavirus (2019-nCoV)

[USCG](#) Novel Coronavirus

Table 1: Confirmed cases of COVID19 acute respiratory disease reported by provinces, regions and cities in China, 16 February 2020

Province/ Region/ City	Confirmed Cases
Hubei	56249
Zhejiang	1167
Guangdong	1316
Henan	1231
Hunan	1004
Anhui	962
Jiangxi	925
Chongqing	544
Sichuan	481
Jiangsu	617
Shandong	537
Beijing	380
Shanghai	328
Fujian	287
Shaanxi	236
Guangxi	237
Hebei	300
Yunnan	169
Heilongjiang	445
Liaoning	120
Hainan	162
Shanxi	128
Gansu	90
Tianjin	122
Guizhou	144
Ningxia	70
Inner Mongolia	70
Xinjiang	71
Jilin	89
Hong Kong SAR	56
Taipei and environs	18
Qinghai	18

Macau SAR	10
Xizang	1
Total	68584

Table 2. Countries, territories or areas with reported cases as of 16 February 2020

Country/Territory/Area	Confirmed Cases
China*	68584
Japan	53
Republic of Korea	29
Viet Nam	16
Singapore	72
Australia	15
Malaysia	17
Cambodia	1
Philippines	3
South-East Asia	
Thailand	34
Nepal	1
Sri Lanka	1
India	3
Region of the Americas	15
United States of America	
Canada	7
European Region	
France	12
Finland	1
Germany	16
Italy	3
Belgium	1
Russian Federation	2
Spain	2
Sweden	1
United Kingdom	9
Eastern Mediterranean	8
United Arab Emirates	
Egypt	1
International Conveyance Japan	355
Total Confirmed cases	69262

Natalie Shaw

Director Employment Affairs.