



South African Maritime Safety Authority

Ref. SM 6/5/2/1

Date: 16 March 2020

Marine Notice No. 14 of 2020

CORONAVIRUS Information and Emergency Contact Details

TO ALL REGIONAL MANAGERS, PRINCIPAL OFFICERS, SURVEYORS, VESSELS, MASTERS, CREW, PASSENGERS, STEVEDORES, SHIP AGENTS, SHIP MANAGERS, SHIP OWNERS AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS

In addition to Marine Notice No. 25 of 2014 Medical Evacuations from Vessels (MEDEVAC)

Summary

This marine notice serves to inform vessels, Masters, Crew, Passengers, Ship Agents, Stevedores, Surveyors, Ship Managers, Ship Owners and all other stakeholders with additional information in order to manage any suspected outbreak of Covid-19 onboard a vessel in the best possible way.

1. CORONAVIRUS PUBLIC HOTLINE

Tel. 08 000 29999

2. MARITIME RESCUE COORDINATION CONTACT DETAILS (24 / 7 / 365)

Tel: +27 (0) 21 938 3300

mrcc.ct@samsa.org.za

3. TRANSNET NATIONAL PORT AUTHORITY

Tel: +27 (0) 83 378 8877

Tel: +27 (0) 83 306 1228

4. SOUTH AFRICAN DESIGNATED COASTAL HOSPITALS

PROVINCE	HOSPITAL	CITY	TEL
Western Cape	Tygerberg Hospital	Cape Town	+27(0) 21 938 4911
KwaZulu-Natal	Grey's Hospital	Pietermaritzburg	+27(0) 33 897 3000
Eastern Cape	Livingstone Hospital	Port Elizabeth	+27(0) 41 405 9111
Northern Cape	Kimberley Hospital	Kimberley	+27(0) 53 802 9111

Designated hospitals for managing Coronavirus –

<https://www.google.com/maps/d/viewer?mid=1u86kN7ZVxPBG-s5pzHc93b29fKpKGC16&usp=sharing>

5. BACKGROUND

On 31 December 2019, the World Health Organization (WHO) China Country Office was informed of cases of pneumonia of unknown cause detected in Wuhan City, Hubei Province of China. On 7 January 2020, the causative pathogen was identified as a novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV). The majority of these cases were linked to a seafood, poultry and live wildlife market in Wuhan City, suggesting that the novel coronavirus has a possible animal origin.

The current outbreak of novel coronavirus (COVID-19) disease has spread across several borders, which has prompted demands for the detection and management of suspected cases at points of entry (POE), including ports, airports and ground crossings.

The coronavirus spreads through human-to-human transmission via respiratory droplets or direct contact with an infected individual. The news of the first confirmed Covid-19 case in South Africa, has caused concern among South Africans.

6. SYMPTOMS

The following symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure.

- .1 High Fever (*Consistent Temperature of 38.5° over 2 days*)
- .2 Dry Cough
- .3 Shortness of breath
- .4 Fatigue

Those who are at risk (<https://www.who.int/news-room/q-a-detail/q-a-coronaviruses>) may develop more severe symptoms and should seek medical advice.

7. DISEASE TRANSMISSION

People can catch COVID-19 from others who have the virus. The disease can spread from person to person through small droplets from the nose or mouth which are spread when a person with COVID-19 coughs or exhales. These droplets land on objects and surfaces around the person.

Other people then catch COVID-19 by touching these objects or surfaces, then touching their eyes, nose or mouth. People can also catch COVID-19 if they breathe in droplets from a person with COVID-19 who coughs out or exhales droplets. This is why it is important to stay more than 1 meter (3 feet) away from a person who is sick.

8. PREVENTATIVE MEASURES

- .1 Only wear a mask if you are ill with COVID-19 symptoms (especially coughing) or looking after someone who may have the disease¹
- .2 Wear a mask if you are coughing or sneezing
- .3 Avoid touching the mask while using it, if you do, clean your hands with soap and water
- .4 Disposable face mask can only be used once
- .5 Frequently clean your hands for at least 30s – 1min
- .6 Cover your cough with the bend of elbow or tissue
- .7 Maintain a distance of at least 1 meter (3 feet) from people
- .8 Regularly clean surfaces with simple disinfectant to kill the virus and protect yourself and others

The COVID-19 virus may persist on surfaces for a few hours or up to several days. This may vary under different conditions (e.g. type of surface, temperature or humidity of the environment).

The likelihood of an infected person contaminating commercial goods is low and the risk of catching the virus that causes COVID-19 from a package that has been moved, travelled, and exposed to different conditions and temperature is also low.

9. MEDEVAC

If a Master suspects that a crewmember/passenger is infected, the vessel should immediately obtain Radio Medical Advice and inform the MRCC. Masters are to complete a TeleMedical Assistance Services (TMAS) questionnaire and submit to the MRCC. (The TMAS is available from the MRCC if the vessel does not have a copy.)

On arrival, the Port Authorities will designate an anchor position, where the vessel will be quarantined for a period of up to 14 days, and the infected crew/passengers potentially Medevac'd to a designated hospital – as guided by the Port Health.

If the vessel is eventually allowed to berth, strict quarantine measures will be adopted while in port until such time that the vessel is given Free Pratique. The Department of Health, Port Health and Provincial Emergency Services will provide further guidance.

10. JOINT OPERATIONS TASK TEAM

In severe cases, where a vessel is classified as a “High Priority, High Risk” vessel, SAMSA will convene a Joint Operations Task Team with all the relevant Authorities and vessel owner representatives.

11. GENERAL INFORMATION

Regular updates regarding COVID-19 are available on;

- .1 The National Institute of Communicable Diseases:
 - a. <http://www.nicd.ac.za/>
- .2 World Health Organisation:
 - a. <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>
 - b. <https://www.who.int/publications-detail/handbook-for-management-of-public-health-events-on-board-ships>

¹ Masks are mainly used to prevent the wearer from spreading the disease and are only effective if used in combination with frequent hand-cleaning and not touching your face.

.3 International Maritime Organisation:

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

.4 International Chamber of Shipping Guidance Book:

a. [https://www.ics-shipping.org/docs/default-source/resources/coronavirus-\(covid-19\)-guidance-for-ship-operators-for-the-protection-of-the-health-of-seafarers.pdf?sfvrsn=6](https://www.ics-shipping.org/docs/default-source/resources/coronavirus-(covid-19)-guidance-for-ship-operators-for-the-protection-of-the-health-of-seafarers.pdf?sfvrsn=6)

12. MEDICAL CHECKS

Any suspected infected seafarer should not be sent directly to a doctor and/or a hospital. Crew need to travel through the whole hospital to get here and then sit in an office full of healthy people – Doctors cannot potentially expose so many people to the Coronavirus.

It is therefore important to obtain medical advice telephonically, prior to sending a seafarer to either a doctor and/or hospital. Actual testing for COVID-19 will only take place once the doctor at the hospital has determined that the patient satisfies the criteria for a ‘Person Under Investigation or PUI’ as defined by the Dept of Health (NICD).

13. QUICK CHECKLIST

NO	QUESTIONNAIRE	YES	NO
1	Was the vessel in China or another affected area in the last 14 days?		
2	Has any crewmember been exposed to someone sick with COVID-19 in the last 14 days?		
3	Is anybody onboard your vessel showing signs and symptoms of a possible infection? (Constant Fever $\geq 38.5^{\circ}\text{C}$ for 48hrs, Dry Cough, Fatigue, Shortness of Breath)		
4	Have you informed the MRCC and Port Authorities, prior arrival?		
5	Have you completed a TeleMedical Assistance Services (TMAS) questionnaire?		
6	Any crew changes where there is a possibility that the crewmember(s) travelled with an infected person?		
7	Are immediate special measures or supplies needed upon arrival at the port?		
8	Have you recorded the time/date of illness onset or start of event and is it still ongoing?		
9	Have the appropriate measures already been taken on the ship?		
10	Are there any additional control measures that must be taken on the ship that can mitigate the risk?		
11	Have you downloaded the “Handbook for management of public health events on board ships” for additional guidance?		
12	Have you informed your company and vessel agent?		

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