



MARITIME EMPLOYERS ASSOCIATION ASSOCIATION DES EMPLOYEURS MARITIMES

Montréal, March 17, 2020

Subject: Update on COVID-19

To follow-up on the communication posted on the MEA website on March 15th, please find below the latest information related to how the situation with the Coronavirus (COVID-19) is evolving.

Directives and information regarding COVID-19

Our first priority is to ensure that all the necessary measures are taken in order to guarantee the health and safety of all our employees and stakeholders.

General Health and Safety Precautions

Though there is not yet a known vaccine or cure for the coronavirus, there are some basic actions we can take to reduce our exposure to the virus. Practicing good hygiene can help limit the spread of viruses. The current recommended precautions to avoid exposure to the virus are the same ones you would take to avoid the flu. To keep you and your family safe, as well as the persons most vulnerable, please:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Keep a distance of 2 meters at all times.
- Cough and sneeze with a tissue and throw the tissue in the trash; if tissues aren't available, cough or sneeze into the inside of your elbow.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

The risk of contracting coronavirus for those who have not recently returned from travel is low. However, if you do display symptoms of a respiratory infection — such as a fever, cough, and difficulty breathing — it is recommended that you contact the special info-Santé line at **1-877-644-4545** before contacting your health care provider, as you would normally do.

Important: if you have symptoms similar to those of the COVID-19 (cough, fever, difficulty breathing) you must report it immediately by contacting the dispatch centre at 514-866-1411.

www.mea.ca

2100, Pierre-Dupuy avenue, Wing 2, Suite 1040, Montréal (Québec) H3C 3R5
Tel. : 514 878-3721 Fax. : 514 866-4246



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For more information on the situation in Quebec, please consult the website below:

<https://www.quebec.ca/en/health/health-issues/a-z/2019-coronavirus/>

Increased hygiene measures taken by terminal operators

Additional cleaning crews will operate as long as the situation requires it. The priority targets are resting areas, equipment and common areas.

Despite all the deployed efforts, you must act as if these measures were not in place and use the strictest hygiene habits. We request that you apply the strictest hygiene measures.

Employees boarding ships

Employees who are required to board ships must adhere to the following measures:

- Keep a distance of at least 2 meters, at all times, with the ship's crew
- Wearing gloves is mandatory
- No facilities (toilets, sinks, etc.) must be used. Ideally, stay in external areas of the ships (decks).
- Wash your hands after a visit onboard a ship. It is important to wash your hands regularly and to avoid touching your face with unwashed hands.

Transport Canada Temporary Direction and Guidance

In order to contribute to the health and safety of those who work in and support the Canadian marine industry, and to reduce and/or eliminate the risk of spreading of the Coronavirus in Canada, the following is implemented on a temporary basis :

- Foreign flagged ships are to pay particular attention to ensuring that all required components of the 96 and 24-hour Pre-Arrival Inspection Report (PAIR) are completed in accordance with section 221 of the Marine Transportation Security Regulations (MTSR);
- Vessel Masters with crew members and passengers symptomatic of the Coronavirus are to advise Transport Canada Marine Safety and Security following transmission of the 96-hour PAIR;
- In vessels with symptomatic crew members or passengers, Transport Canada Marine Security Inspectors will advise Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) Officials who will follow up directly with the vessel;
- Based on that information, PHAC determines will provide follow-on direction;
- In the event that PHAC determines that a crew member or passenger onboard a vessel to be at risk, Transport Canada Marine Safety and Security, in coordination with PHAC, will provide notification to others on a required basis (including but not limited to CCG, Pilotage Authorities, Port Authorities, TC Marine Safety, CBSA).

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Please note that the measures mentioned above are additional to those already taken by the MEA in the regards to this situation:

- Layoff of employees having travelled abroad
- Accommodating employees with children in regard to the closing of daycare services
- Communications to all our employees containing the following information:
 - Essential measures to take in order to face the coronavirus
 - Preventive measures issued by Transport Canada concerning ships entering in Canadian Waters
 - Measures taken by the Terminals and the MEA
 - Specific instructions that must be followed by our employees
 - Measure to follow if you think you are infected

We are tracking the situation closely and are in constant contact with our union partners in order to provide the latest information to our employees and partners. We will keep you informed on a regular basis.

Meanwhile, we ask all employees to be vigilant in the coming days and weeks to ensure everyone's health and safety.

The management of the MEA thanks you for your cooperation.

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