

To: - Port/terminal managements/operators
- Ship owners and operators
- Ship agents

COVID 19- General instructions in respect of shipping and port operations

Introduction

The Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic is a global public health crisis, the response to which by authorities requires the maintenance of supply chains to ensure that the medical supplies, food, energy and raw materials, as well as manufactured goods and components vital to the preservation of employment, continue to be imported and exported. In this time of global crisis, it is more important than ever to keep supply chains open and maritime trade, transport and services moving.

To this end the following measures are taken so that, while public health is protected by implementing health measures to address COVID-19 pandemic, the maritime operations continue to ensure maintenance of required supply chains in the Sultanate.

A. General precautionary measures

The following general measures shall be implemented, as applicable to the tasks performed and working environment and as much as practicable;

- a. Constantly promote and enforce preventive hygiene measures (handwashing);
- b. Increase the use of digital documentation (ship-to-shore and shore-to-shore) to limit human contact to the minimum;
- c. Limit physical interaction between onboard and onshore staff. Ship crew should communicate with quayside staff by radio or telephone as far as possible;
- d. Respect **physical** distancing rules – stay 2 metres apart;
- e. Provide adequate and sufficient protective equipment to the staff (face masks, gloves, hand sanitizers, goggles);
- f. Augment the sanitation of surfaces that come in contact with hands;

- g. Establish a point of control in the perimeter of the port area to monitor temperature and related symptoms (automated temperature screening) and equip it with anti-bacterial solutions and sanitizers;
- h. Establish a waste disposal policy for “suspicious” cases;
- i. Fumigate and disinfect all passenger terminals/areas;
- j. Disinfect and monitor cargo, whenever is necessary;
- k. Have a passenger information system for easy contact tracing and an isolated holding and testing area for COVID-19 symptomatic port users; and
- l. Identify decontamination areas in the port buildings.

B. Instructions for Omani Vessels

Ship owners, managers, operators, agents and masters of Omani vessels should monitor the health of their crew closely. Masters of Omani vessels are required to report to their company, Directorate General of Maritime Affairs (DGMA) and destination port authorities, if their crew are unwell, experience respiratory symptoms (e.g. cough, runny nose, shortness of breath) or feel feverish. They should also make the necessary arrangements to seek medical attention. Refer to the health advisory in **ANNEX A**.

C. Instructions for Shoreside Maritime Personnel

Managers/operators of ports and terminals, ship agents, contractors and other service providers in ports should take the required precautionary measures set out in the **ANNEX B** and bring them into attention of staff who work on, or visit, ships.

D. Instructions for vessels that are in international voyages and calling at Omani ports, terminals or offshore installations

1. All vessels calling at an Omani port, terminal or offshore installation, shall submit the following documents to the Port (Health, Safety and Environment section/officer) 12 hours before arrival:
 - a. The Maritime Declaration of Health Form;
 - b. Last 10 ports of call list;
 - c. List of all passengers & crew members with temperature above 37.5 degree Celsius;
 - d. Crew list / Passenger list; and
 - e. Current copy of Ship Sanitation Control (or Exemption) Certificate(s).

Notes: -

- * The documents specified in above paragraphs a. to c. must be completed using the formats set out in the **ANNEX C** and, submitted regardless whether there are any sick passengers or crew on board.
- ** The crew list shall include the date and place that each crew joined the ship and countries they came from for joining the ship.

2. Temporarily crew are restricted to the ship while alongside or in anchorage, unless disembarking is required to receive emergency medical attention not available on board the ship or as part of a crew change.

3. The master of the ship is required to implement the following additional precautionary measures, while the ship is alongside or in anchorage:

- a. Educate crew of the symptoms of COVID-19, which are:
 - i. Fever (i.e. temperature above 37.5 degree Celsius);
 - ii. Runny nose;
 - iii. Cough; and
 - iv. Shortness of breath
- b. Carry out daily temperature checks for all crew/passengers at least twice daily;
- c. Isolate unwell crew/passengers when his/her temperature is above 37.5 degree Celsius. The unwell crew/passengers should also wear a mask;
- d. Disinfect common areas and rooms in the vessel before arrival in destination. The disinfection may be conducted by the ship's crew en-route to destination; and
- e. When crew/passenger required any medical attention, to report/ inform the port.

E. Crew change while the ship is in Omani port or terminal

1. In general crew change are restricted in Omani ports and terminals during the COVID-19 pandemic. However, under following special circumstances the crew may be changed:

- a. the crew has served his/her maximum time on board and no further extension of the employment contract is granted by the flag State;
- b. compassionate grounds e.g. death of family member; or
- c. the crew is no longer medically fit to work onboard the ship.

2. Conditions under which Omani nationals or residents may be changed are:

- a. For seafarers who are leaving the ship, the company shall;

- i provide the list of seafarers consisting of full names, ID number, address and contact details to the Ministry of Health (MoH)**, in addition to the ANNEX C;
 - ii provide a declaration of health for seafarers, covering at least previous 24 days, and including the previous port of calls of the ships that they were working on prior to discharge, to the MoH**; and
 - iii ensure that he/she is kept under the quarantine for 14 days in accordance with the MoH regulations and procedures.
 - b. For seafarers who are joining the ship, the company shall ensure that they do not have any symptoms related to the COVID-19 (see ANNEX A, paragraph 1).
3. Conditions under which Non-Omani nationals may be changed, subject to flight availability, are:
 - a. For seafarers who are leaving the ship, the company shall;
 - i provide a declaration of health for seafarers, covering at least previous 24 days, and including the previous port of calls of the ships that they were working on prior to discharge, to the MoH** (in addition to the ANNEX C); and
 - ii ensure that either they fly out of country immediately or, kept under the quarantine in accordance with the MoH regulations and procedures until fly out of the country. All the relevant expenses shall be borne by the company or the ship agent.
- Note:-** In cases when seafarer is kept under quarantine, the company shall notify the MoH** about the names of seafarers and conditions of the quarantine.
- b. For seafarers who are joining the ship, the company shall ensure that they do not have any symptoms related to the COVID-19 (see ANNEX A, paragraph 1).
4. For crew change additional health related requirements of the relevant port/terminal shall also be complied with.
5. The information required under above paragraphs 2 and 3 shall be submitted at least seven days in advance and, shared by the relevant port/terminal upon request.
6. In circumstances when a seafarer falls sick and need medical treatment ashore, the company or the ship agent shall arrange the required treatment as soon as possible after coordination with the MoH** and port/terminal authority. All the relevant expenses shall be borne by the company or the ship agent.

* More information about the COVID-19 issues may be obtained from the MoH website (<https://covid19.moh.gov.om/#/home>) or download the Turassud Application (for self-reporting of any symptoms) or, call the MoH call centers at 24441999 / 1212.

** The information required under above paragraphs 2 and 3 and the Annex C documents (Maritime Declaration of Health) shall be sent to the MoH Ports Health Section in the concerned port.

Dr. Rashid Mohammed Hamed Al-Kiyumi
Director General for Maritime Affairs &
Acting Director General for Ports
Ministry of Transport

Dr. Seif bin Salim Al-Abri
Director General for Disease Surveillance and Control
Ministry of Health



ANNEX A

HEALTH ADVISORY ON CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19) FOR SHIPOWNERS, SHIP MANAGERS, AGENTS AND MASTERS OF OMANI SHIPS

1. Follow up the General precautionary measures, if applicable.
2. Shipowners, ship managers and masters are required to closely monitor the health of their crew on board daily for the below symptoms and keep a records. If they develop any of the symptoms of the COVID-19, they should be given immediate medical attention (advice to wear a medical mask and send to the nearest healthcare facility for assessment). The typical symptoms of the COVID-19 are:
 - a. Fever (temperature above 37.5 degree Celsius);
 - b. Runny nose;
 - c. Cough; and
 - d. Shortness of breath
3. Ship crew who feel unwell, experience respiratory symptoms (e.g. cough, shortness of breath) or feel feverish, should wear a medical mask and inform the ship master immediately. The ship master should then inform the company, destination port authority and ship agent to make the necessary arrangements to seek medical attention. Shipowners and masters must not allow any crew with above-mentioned symptoms to board their ship and to report all occurrences to the DGMA.
4. Masters/crew members of passenger ships that operating only between Omani ports who notice any passenger who is unwell and displaying the symptoms set out in paragraph 1 should:
 - a. Notify the operators, or owners who should then immediately report this to the relevant health authority and, if required, arrange for appropriate medical assistance(send to the nearest healthcare facility);
 - b. Provide a surgical mask to the passenger who is unwell. If a surgical mask is not available, the passenger should cover his/ her mouth and nose with tissues when coughing or sneezing, and dispose the soiled (used) tissue paper in the rubbish bin immediately;
 - c. Wear a surgical mask when attending to the passenger who is unwell. Surgical masks should be changed regularly, and if they are soiled or wet; and
 - d. All masks, napkins, tissues, utensils and trays used by the passenger who is unwell should be disposed of in leak-resistant plastic bags.

ANNEX B

HEALTH ADVISORY ON CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19) FOR SHORE PERSONNEL VISITING SHIPS ALONGSIDE THE BERTHS AND AT THE ANCHORAGES

1. Shore personnel refer to any persons, other than the ship's crew, who are required to board ships alongside berths or at the anchorages to deliver services requested by ships. They include staff of terminal operators, ship agents, contractors and service providers.
2. To minimise the risk of COVID-19 infection, all personnel should take the following precautions:
 - a. Avoid crowded places and close contact with people (2 meters distance) who are unwell or showing symptoms of illness;
 - b. Observe good personal hygiene including frequent hand washing with soap;
 - c. Wear a mask if you have respiratory symptoms such as a cough or runny nose;
 - d. Cover one's mouth with tissue paper when coughing or sneezing, and dispose the used tissue paper in the rubbish bin immediately;
 - e. Seek medical attention promptly if you are feeling unwell; and
 - f. Minimise unnecessary interactions with the ship's crew.
3. Managers/supervisors should closely monitor the health of shore personnel who are required to work on board ships. Shore personnel exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19, which include fever, runny nose, sore throat, cough, and shortness of breath, should not be sent on board ships. Medical attention should be sought immediately (send to the nearest healthcare facility).
4. Before boarding any ship, shore personnel should check with the ship master or duty officer if there are any health procedures and/or guidelines to be observed, and adhere to them when on board the ship.

ANNEX C

The MDH must be completed and submitted a maximum of 12 hours before arrival, with an update, if the health status of any one on board changes.

MARITIME DECLARATION OF HEALTH

To be completed and submitted to the competent authorities by the masters of ships arriving from foreign ports.

Submitted at the port of Date

Name of shipRegistration/IMO No

arriving from sailing to

(Nationality)(Flag of vessel) Master's name

Gross tonnage (ship)

Valid Sanitation Control Exemption/Control Certificate carried on board? Yes No Issued at date

Re-inspection required? Yes No

Has ship/vessel visited an affected area identified by the World Health Organization? Yes No

Port and date of visit

List ports of call from commencement of voyage with dates of departure, or within past thirty days, whichever is shorter:

.....
.....
.....

List crew members, passengers or other persons who have joined ship/vessel since international voyage began or within past thirty days, whichever is shorter, including all ports/countries visited in this period (add additional names to the attached schedule)

(1) Namejoined from: (1)(2)(3)

(2) Namejoined from: (1)(2)(3)

(3) Namejoined from: (1)(2)(3)

Number of crew members on board

Number of passengers on board

Health questions

(1) Has any person died on board during the voyage otherwise than as a result of accident? Yes No

If yes, state particulars in attached schedule. Total no. of deaths

(2) Is there on board or has there been during the international voyage any case of disease which you suspect to be of an infectious nature?

Yes..... No..... If yes, state particulars in attached schedule.

(3) Has the total number of ill passengers during the voyage been greater than normal/expected? Yes No How many ill persons?

(4) Is there any ill person on board now? Yes No If yes, state particulars in attached schedule.

(5) Was a medical practitioner consulted? Yes No If yes, state particulars of medical treatment or advice provided in attached schedule.

(6) Are you aware of any condition on board which may lead to infection or spread of disease? Yes No

If yes, state particulars in attached schedule.

(7) Has any sanitary measure (e.g. quarantine, isolation, disinfection or decontamination) been applied on board? Yes No

If yes, specify type, place and date

(8) Have any stowaways been found on board? Yes No If yes, where did they join the ship (if known)?

(9) Is there a sick animal or pet on board? Yes No

Note: In the absence of a surgeon, the master should regard the following symptoms as grounds for suspecting the existence of a disease of an infectious nature:

(a) fever, persisting for several days or accompanied by (i) prostration; (ii) decreased consciousness; (iii) glandular swelling; (iv) jaundice; (v) cough or shortness of breath; (vi) unusual bleeding; or (vii) paralysis.

(b) with or without fever: (i) any acute skin rash or eruption; (ii) severe vomiting (other than sea sickness); (iii) severe diarrhea; or (iv) recurrent convulsions.

I hereby declare that the particulars and answers to the questions given in this Declaration of Health (including the schedule) are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Date

Signed

Master

ATTACHMENT TO THE MARITIME DECLARATION OF HEALTH

Name	Capacity or grade	Age	Sex	Nationality	Port, date joined ship/vessel	Nature of illness	Date of onset of symptoms	Reported to a port medical officer?	Disposal of case *	Drugs, medicines or other treatment given to patient	Comments

* State:1) Whether the person recovered, is still ill or died; and 2) Whether the person is still on board, was evacuated (including the name of the port or airport), or was buried at sea.

List of last 10 ports of call

No.	Port name	Arrival date	Departure date	Remarks
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				

List of Passengers/ Crew Members with Temperature above 37.5°C

No.	Name	Nationality	Temperature	Remarks

I hereby declare that the information provided in above tables are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Date

Signed

Master