

UPDATE: COVID-19 – U.S. Reporting Procedures-USCG

18 March 2020

The COVID-19 disease seems to be peaking in China and is now spreading rapidly throughout the entire rest of the world; most notably in Europe, Iran, South Korea, Scandinavia, and the USA. Many countries are now implementing various stages of “lockdown” procedures which are placing an immediate, large strain on daily routines affecting local, regional and global commerce.

To update our last circular on USA reporting requirements, please be advised that the **USCG now considers any ill person onboard a vessel, regardless of where they have been or who they have interacted with, WHO SHOWS SYMPTOMS of COVID-19 or other flu like illness to be a *hazardous condition* as per 33 CFR 160.216.**

Accordingly, the owner, agent, master, operator, or person in charge **must immediately notify the nearest Coast Guard Sector Office (Captain of the Port - COTP) or Group Office.** U.S. Flag commercial vessels are advised to report ill crewmembers in accordance with the requirements of each foreign port called upon. As the Master is likely to be the first person in charge aware of an ill crewmember, we strongly recommend **the Master to immediately notify the nearest USCG COTP as per above, in addition to the U.S. CDC immediate reporting requirements** (*See our prior circular issued 10 March 2020*).

A copy of the *USCG MSIB 02-20 (Change 3) dated March 16, 2020*, which details the above USCG reporting requirement, is appended to this Circular for immediate reference. This bulletin change also covers the latest Presidential Proclamation restrictions on persons arriving to the USA, as well as other USCG guidance and information for vessel owners and operators.

We have also appended a complete copy of the *U.S. CDC “Interim Guidance for Ships on Managing Suspected COVID-19”*. This guidance is current but note that it is occasionally updated by the CDC. Please visit the following webpage when checking for the latest version:
<https://www.cdc.gov/quarantine/maritime/recommendations-for-ships.html>

We continue to recommend that Masters of vessels currently trading, or that may trade, to the USA or its territories, be sure to read, understand the importance of, and implement this guidance onboard together with the entire crew. **Masters are encouraged to consult the CDC Emergency Operations Center** with any questions or concerns regarding medical risk assessment, clinical management, and/or infection control by contacting them at **+1-770-488-7100** or email address eoreport@cdc.gov.

Please share this Circular with all Masters and SSOs in your fleet.

As always, feel free to contact us whenever questions or concerns arise regarding maritime security risk management.

End of Circular

ATTACHMENTS:

- 1) USCG MSIB 02-20 (Change 3), dated March 16, 2020, Novel Coronavirus – Update (Change 3).**
- 2) U.S. CDC - Interim Guidance for Ships on Managing Suspected Coronavirus Diseases 2019 (last updated February 18, 2020).**