



# South African Maritime Safety Authority

Ref. SM 6/5/2/1

Date: 12 May 2020

## Marine Notice No. 26 of 2020

### Coronavirus Information and Emergency Contact Details

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

*In addition to Marine Notice No. 24 of 2020 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.

#### The following Marine Notices are hereby cancelled

NO	NOTICE	DESCRIPTION
1	14 of 2020	CORONAVIRUS Information and Emergency Contact Details
2	15 of 2020	COVID-19 - Update No1 - Government Announcement with Regard to Port Calls from Vessels
3	18 of 2020	South Africa - 21-Day Lockdown
4	21 of 2020	COVID-19 Lockdown - South African Ports Open for Cargo Operations
5	22 of 2020	Lockdown- Small Vessel and Essential Fishing Vessel Operations

#### 1. BACKGROUND

The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic continues to pose a significant threat to the health of seafarers. This infection is similar to the seasonal flu, except it spreads more easily than flu and has a higher death rate, especially in older people who also have other illnesses like heart problems, high blood pressure and diabetes.

#### 2. 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, speaks 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 1.5 meters away from other people, especially people who are sick, and to wash your hands regularly with soap and water.

#### 3. 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

#### **4. SUSPECTED CASE OF COVID-19**

Any person with flu-like symptoms with sudden onset of at least one of the following: cough, sore throat, shortness of breath or fever should seek medical advice and arrange to be tested for the virus causing COVID-19<sup>1</sup>. Any person with suspected COVID-19 infection should be isolated (if practical) and wear a mask until test results become available.

If COVID-19 infection is confirmed, further guidance should be sought from health authorities. Refer to Marine Notice 24 of 2020 – Medical Evacuations from Vessels for further information and contact details. It is important to obtain radio medical advice, prior to sending a seafarer to either a doctor and/or hospital.

#### **5. PREVENTATIVE MEASURES**

##### **a. Seafarers and vessels**

The COVID -19 Occupational Health and Safety Measures in Workplaces directive, dated 28<sup>th</sup> April 2020 does not apply on board ships. However, owners and masters have a duty to ensure the health and safety of seafarers and to put in place measures to reduce risks as far as is reasonably practicable.

The wearing of cloth masks, implementation of social distancing and good hand hygiene are essential to reduce risk within the workplace and should be incorporated as far as is practicable. Where all of these measures are not practical, other mitigation measures should be considered (e.g. screening of staff prior to joining, reducing crew changes, monitoring crew temperatures regularly, etc).

Masters and owners of fishing vessels should be particularly aware of the increased risks of disease transmission due to the close proximity in which seafarers work and sleep and the need to put measures in place to mitigate risk.

The IMO Circular letter No 4204/Add.14 - Coronavirus (COVID-19) – Recommended framework of protocols for

Ensuring safe ship crew changes and travel during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic (available from <https://www.ics-shipping.org/free-resources/covid-19> ) should be referenced in the development of ship specific protocols.

Section 6 of the abovementioned IMO circular provides specific guidance on board ship.

##### **b. General Measures**

- .1 The wearing of a cloth mask is required in a public and work place. Avoid touching the mask while using it, if you do, immediately clean your hands with soap and water. Cloth masks must be washed on a daily basis and ironed if possible. Disposable face mask can only be used once.
- .2 Regularly and thoroughly wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- .3 Cover your cough with the bend of elbow or tissue
- .4 Maintain a distance of at least 1.5 metre from people at all times.
- .5 Regularly clean surfaces with simple disinfectant to kill the virus and protect yourself and others.

The virus may persist on surfaces 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 low.

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.nicd.ac.za/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/COVID-19-Quick-reference-v12-09.04.2020\\_final-1.pdf](https://www.nicd.ac.za/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/COVID-19-Quick-reference-v12-09.04.2020_final-1.pdf)  
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## 6. IMPORTANT CONTACTS

- a. Coronavirus public hotline - 08 000 29999
- b. Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (24/7/365)
  - +27 (0) 21 938 3300
  - [mrcc.ct@samsa.org.za](mailto:mrcc.ct@samsa.org.za)
- c. Transnet National Ports Authority
  - +27 (0) 83 378 8877
  - +27 (0) 83 306 1228

## 7. 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>
- .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)

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ANNEX FOLLOWS: POSTERS FOR USE ONBOARD

# Protect others from getting sick

When coughing and sneezing **cover mouth and nose** with flexed elbow or tissue



**Throw tissue into closed bin immediately after use**

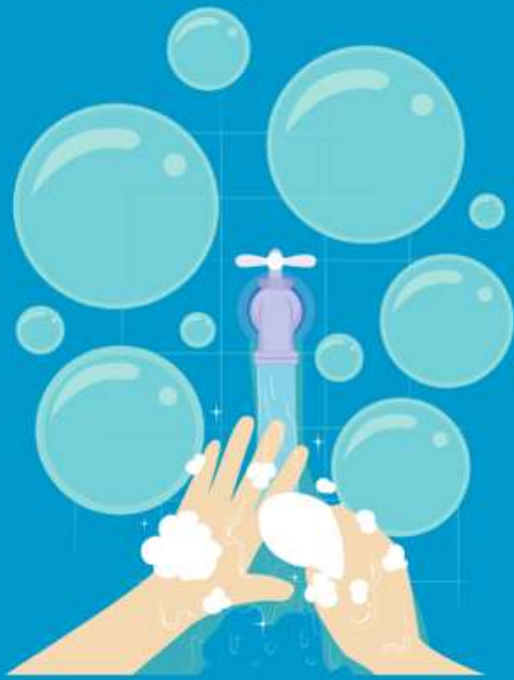
**Clean hands** with alcohol-based hand rub or soap and water after coughing or sneezing and when caring for the sick



Masters and Safety Officers to regularly remind crewmembers of the need to wash hands regularly for 20 seconds or more before daily operations begin, during toolbox talks and after completing a task.

# Protect yourself and others from getting sick

## Wash your hands



- after coughing or sneezing
- when caring for the sick
- before, during and after you prepare food
- before eating
- after toilet use
- when hands are visibly dirty
- after handling animals or animal waste



World Health  
Organization

Masters and Safety Officers to regularly remind crewmembers of the need to wash hands regularly for 20 seconds or more before daily operations begin, during toolbox talks and after completing a task.

# HOW TO WEAR A MEDICAL MASK SAFELY

[who.int/epi-win](https://www.who.int/epi-win)

## Do's →



Wash your hands before touching the mask



Inspect the mask for tears or holes



Find the top side, where the metal piece or stiff edge is



Ensure the colored-side faces outwards



Place the metal piece or stiff edge over your nose



Cover your mouth, nose, and chin



Adjust the mask to your face without leaving gaps on the sides



Avoid touching the mask



Remove the mask from behind the ears or head



Keep the mask away from you and surfaces while removing it



Discard the mask immediately after use preferably into a closed bin



Wash your hands after discarding the mask

## Don'ts →



Do not use a ripped or damp mask



Do not wear the mask only over mouth or nose



Do not wear a loose mask



Do not touch the front of the mask



Do not remove the mask to talk to someone or do other things that would require touching the mask



Do not leave your used mask within the reach of others



Do not re-use the mask

Remember that masks alone cannot protect you from Covid-19. Maintain at least 1.5metre distance from others and wash your hands frequently and thoroughly for 20seconds or more, even while wearing a mask.

# Protect others from getting sick



**Avoid close contact** when you are experiencing cough and fever

**Avoid spitting in public**



If you have fever, cough and difficulty breathing **seek medical care early** and share previous travel history with your health care provider



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