



MARITIME EMPLOYERS ASSOCIATION ASSOCIATION DES EMPLOYEURS MARITIMES

Montreal, March 15, 2020

Issue : Update on COVID-19

To follow up on the letter we sent you on February 6, here is the most up-to-date information regarding the development of the COVID-19 situation.

Risk to Canadians

Despite the increased media interest in the past few days, at this time, the Public Health Agency of Canada has assessed the public health risk associated with COVID-19 as low for the general population in Canada but this could change rapidly. There is an increased risk of more severe outcomes for Canadians:

- aged 65 and over
- with compromised immune systems
- with underlying medical conditions

While a COVID-19 outbreak is not unexpected in Canada, our public health system is prepared to respond. The Public Health Agency of Canada, along with provincial, territorial and community partners, continues to reassess the public health risk, based on the best available evidence as the situation evolves.

Trips abroad

The risk to Canadian travellers abroad will vary depending on the destination, as well as the person's age and health status. There are some destinations where the Government of Canada recommends avoiding all travel or all non-essential travel. No matter where you plan to travel, make sure you check the Travel Advice and Advisories page for your destination twice : once when you are planning your trip, and again shortly before you leave. Safety and security conditions may change between the date you book your travel and your departure date. Information can be found on this web site: <https://voyage.gc.ca/voyager/avertissements>.

Voluntary isolation for 14 days is recommended for all persons returning from abroad from March 12, 2020. These persons must be vigilant and watch their symptoms. Based on this

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recommendation, the MEA's management is taking measures to prevent people returning from abroad from being in contact with their workplace before a period of 14 days.

Risk of contracting the virus in your workplace

The World Health Organization and public health authorities around the world are taking action to contain the COVID-19 outbreak. Considering all the information available at present, we consider that the risk of contamination at work is low but worrying.

Basic protective measures against the new coronavirus

The best preventive measures remain the basic hygiene principles as recommended by national and local public health authorities. We count on your collaboration and your sense of responsibility to protect others, by applying the following tips:

Wash your hands frequently

Regularly and thoroughly clean your hands with an alcohol-based hand rub or wash them with soap and water.

Why? Washing your hands with soap and water or using alcohol-based hand rub kills viruses that may be on your hands.

Maintain social distancing

Maintain at least 1 metre (3 feet) distance between yourself and anyone who is coughing or sneezing.

Why? When someone coughs or sneezes they spray small liquid droplets from their nose or mouth which may contain virus. If you are too close, you can breathe in the droplets, including the COVID-19 virus if the person coughing has the disease.

Avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth

Why? Hands touch many surfaces and can pick up viruses. Once contaminated, hands can transfer the virus to your eyes, nose or mouth. From there, the virus can enter your body and can make you sick.

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Practice respiratory hygiene

Make sure you, and the people around you, follow good respiratory hygiene. This means covering your mouth and nose with your bent elbow or tissue when you cough or sneeze. Then dispose of the used tissue immediately.

Why? Droplets spread virus. By following good respiratory hygiene you protect the people around you from viruses such as cold, flu and COVID-19.

If you have fever, cough and difficulty breathing, seek medical care early

Stay home if you feel unwell. If you have a fever, cough and difficulty breathing, seek medical attention and call in advance. Follow the directions of your local health authority.

Why? National and local authorities will have the most up to date information on the situation in your area. Calling in advance will allow your health care provider to quickly direct you to the right health facility. This will also protect you and help prevent spread of viruses and other infections.

Stay informed and follow advice given by your healthcare provider

Stay informed on the latest developments about COVID-19. Follow advice given by your healthcare provider, your national and local public health authority or your employer on how to protect yourself and others from COVID-19.

Why? National and local authorities will have the most up to date information on whether COVID-19 is spreading in your area. They are best placed to advise on what people in your area should be doing to protect themselves.

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 Hours 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;

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- 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).

Action taken by port terminals and the MEA

To prevent the risk of contamination at work, all terminals will take the following measures starting now:

- Checking the 96 and 24 Hours Pre-Arrival Inspection Report (PAIR) to make sure no crew member is showing symptoms;
- Verification with the captain of the ship, if the situation has changed between the issue of the report and its arrival;
- The signalmen with a medical condition making him more vulnerable to infection may ask to be assigned to another work station. The worker will be responsible for providing the MEA with information / justifications regarding his medical situation as soon as possible.

Instructions for all longshoremen and checkers

- You must wash your hands before going to your work station and before leaving;
- Avoid using the "Tally Room" on board ships;
- Keep a safe distance (2 meters and more) from the crew members;
- Do not leave your personal effects on board the ship;
- If you leave the country, you must notify the MEA upon your return;
- Inform the MEA as soon as possible, if you are infected with COVID-19

Measures to be taken if you suspect you are infected

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People who have any doubts about their health can first contact **1-877-644-4545** (new information number). A nurse will assess the situation and give the appropriate instructions.

Check the MEA web page regularly as we will update the latest news and instructions.

The management of the MEA thanks you for your cooperation.

Sources: Public Health Agency of Canada
Marine Security Operations
Quebec.ca / Coronavirus

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