

March 16th, 2020

PORT OF BÉCANCOUR RESPONSE TO COVID-19

The Société du Parc Industriel et Portuaire de Bécancour – Port of Bécancour being highly concerned by the COVID-19 pandemic, wanted to provide you with an update on our response and our commitment to ensure port operation safety. The health, safety and well-being of the maritime industry workers is a priority and we are following the lead of Public Health Agency of Canada at this important time. We are committed to providing a safe work environment to all of our workers and the maritime industry seeks to do the same.

Until now, we have implemented additional measures to maintain safety, including but not limited to:

- Introducing enhanced cleaning protocols in all of our locations, with particular focus on high traffic and high contact areas. Coronaviruses are easily eliminated by routine surface cleaning and the cleaning products we use are obviously industrial-grade.
- Increasing communications and reminders with our partners and employees on important health and safety measures.
- Asking that anyone who is feeling unwell refrain from visiting the Port and get tested if they present symptoms of the COVID-19 (fever, caught, breathing difficulties).
- Ensuring telecommuting for all employees not required on site.
- Ensuring that stevedoring companies follow Public Health Agency of Canada recommendations.

In this context, the Société du Parc Industriel et Portuaire de Bécancour – Port of Bécancour demands to domestics and foreign flagged vessels calling the Port to closely follow all the recommendations issued by Public Health Agency of Canada and/or World Health Organisation (WHO) in regards to precautions that should be taken. Without limitation, we ask all vessels to avoid having crew members going ashore unless for important matters and to restrain their contact with stevedores and port workers. Furthermore, only visitors directly related to vessel/port operations will be granted Port access.

Subsequently, as mentioned by Public Health Agency of Canada, proper hygiene can help reduce the risk of infection or spreading infection to others:

Hygiene

- wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after using the washroom and when preparing food
 - use alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available
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- when coughing or sneezing:
 - cough or sneeze into a tissue or the bend of your arm, not your hand
 - dispose of any tissues you have used as soon as possible in a lined waste basket and wash your hands afterwards
- avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands
- clean the following high-touch surfaces frequently with regular household cleaners or diluted bleach (1 part bleach to 9 parts water):
 - toilets
 - phones
 - electronics
 - door handles
 - bedside tables
 - television remotes

Wearing masks

If you are a healthy individual, the use of a mask is not recommended for preventing the spread of COVID-19.

Wearing a mask when you are not ill may give a false sense of security. There is a potential risk of infection with improper mask use and disposal. They also need to be changed frequently.

However, your health care provider may recommend you wear a mask if you are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 while you are seeking or waiting for care. In this instance, masks are an appropriate part of infection prevention and control measures. The mask acts as a barrier and helps stop the tiny droplets from spreading you when you cough or sneeze.

For more information on COVID-19, you will find below the information sites and telephone lines made available to you by the Public Health Agency of Canada as well as the Quebec Health and Social Services Agency:

Public Health Agency of Canada – COVID-19
1 833 784-4397

<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/prevention-risks.html>

Quebec Health and Social Services Agency – (Covid-19)
1 877 644-4545

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

We remain available for any questions.

Sincerely yours,

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