Longshore Safety Tip

2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Precautions

The 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) is a new virus that causes respiratory illness in people and can spread from person to person. This document provides guidance for longshore workers to help prevent COVID-19 infections.

Symptoms and Evaluation
Symptoms may include fever, cough, and shortness of breath. Patients have a fever if they feel warm to the touch, give a history of feeling feverish, or have a measured temperature of 100.4°F (38°C) or higher. COVID-19 infections have ranged from little-to-no symptoms to severe illness and death. The incubation period is believed to be 2–14 days. Vessels arriving from China generally have a transit time in excess of the COVID-19 incubation period of 14 days and any person who contracted the disease would be visibly sick and detectable on arrival and required CDC reporting requirements would have to be followed.

Basic Hygiene and Precaution Measures
There are simple everyday preventive actions to help prevent the spread of respiratory viruses. These include:

• Stay home when sick.
• Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
• Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
• Wash your hands often with soap & water for at least 20 seconds. Use hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol if soap is not available.
• Porters should wear latex gloves when handling luggage.

What is Being Done?
The Coast Guard, CDC, and CBP are taking proactive steps to ensure West Coast ports are informed of measures being taken in response to COVID-19. CDC requires that ships destined for a US port of entry immediately report any death onboard or illness that meets CDC’s definition of ill person, including suspected cases of COVID-19.