



Safety Bulletin

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2019 Novel Coronavirus Precautions

Purpose

The 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) is a new virus that causes respiratory illness in people and can spread from person to person. 2019-nCoV is on concern worldwide. Incidents have been associated with individuals who have traveled to the People's Republic of China (China). This document provides guidance for vessels and marine terminals to help prevent 2019-nCoV infections.

Instruction should be provided to all employees that might work aboard a vessel or come in contact with the vessel's crew.

What is Being Done?

The Coast Guard, the Center for Disease Control (CDC), and Customs and Border Protection (CBP) are taking proactive steps to ensure West Coast ports are informed of measures being taken in response to 2019-nCoV. Coast Guard has issued Marine Safety Information Bulletin 02-20 "Novel Coronavirus", which contains information on reporting to the Coast Guard and disposition of vessels arriving from affected areas or having potentially affected crewmembers onboard.

Additionally, Coast Guard and CBP are identifying vessels that have called upon China in their previous 5 port calls prior to their arrival, or who have had crewmembers embark who have been in areas affected by 2019-nCoV.

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. 2019-nCoV 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 the China generally have a transit time in excess of the 2019-nCoV 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:

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.

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Reference Information:

[Occupational Safety & Health Administration \(OSHA\) 2019-nCoV website](#)

[U.S. Coast Guard Marine Safety Information Bulletin 2019-nCoV](#)

[Centers for Disease Control \(CDC\) 2019-nCoV Factsheet](#)

[Federal Regulations for Reporting Death or Illness on Ships Destined for the United States](#)

- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available.

Vessel's and marine terminal operators should be aware of the following:

Non-passenger commercial vessels that have been to China (excluding Hong Kong and Macau) or embarked crewmembers who have been in China (excluding Hong Kong and Macau) within the last 14 days, with no sick crewmembers, will be permitted to enter the U.S. and conduct normal operations, with restrictions. Crewmembers on these vessels will be required under COTP authority to remain aboard the vessel except to conduct specific activities directly related to vessel cargo or provisioning operations.

The Coast Guard will continue to review all *Notice of Arrivals* and will communicate any concerns stemming from sick or deceased crew or passengers to their Coast Guard chain of command and the cognizant CDC quarantine station, who will coordinate with local health authorities.

Reporting Requirements for Vessels

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 2019 Novel Coronavirus, to the CDC Quarantine Station with jurisdiction for the port.

Reporting must be provided to the nearest [CDC Quarantine Station Contact List](#).

To consult CDC about assessing exposure risk and identifying contacts of ill travelers and crew, clinical management, laboratory specimen collection, or infection control concerns related to 2019-nCoV, contact the CDC Emergency Operations Center at 770-488-7100 or eocreport@cdc.gov.

In addition, illness of a person onboard a vessel that may adversely affect the safety of a vessel or port facility is a hazardous condition per 33 CFR 160.216 and must be immediately reported to the U.S. Coast Guard Captain of the Port (COTP) under 33 CFR 160.206. Cases of persons who exhibit symptoms consistent with 2019-nCoV must be reported to the COTP. Such persons will be evaluated and treated on a case by case basis.

Penalties for vessels, owners, or operators for providing false information or failing to report an illness could result in civil penalties ranging from \$5,000 to \$94,219 or a class D felony.