



# THE REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA

## LIBERIA MARITIME AUTHORITY

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**16 March 2020**

### **Marine Advisory: 10/2020 (Link update USCG MSIB)**

#### **SUBJECT: CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) GUIDANCE – Extended application**

#### **Dear Shipowners/Operators/Masters/Verifiers:**

This Marine Advisory is an extension to Marine Advisory 04/2020 in regards to the Liberian Administration's recognition of the potential threat to seafarers and vessels calling at ports in countries directly or indirectly affected by the COVID-19 outbreak.

#### **General information:**

With the COVID-19 outbreak now widely spread and impacting ships trading globally, the preventive measures outlined in Marine Advisory 04/2020 and repeated below are to be applied globally with due consideration to advice and instructions from relevant Port Agents and Authorities:

Companies, managers, crewing agents, etc. are encouraged to promulgate information to ensure that seafarers, passengers and others onboard ships are provided with accurate and relevant information on the COVID-19 outbreak and on the measures to reduce the risk of exposure if they are likely to be engaged on ships trading to and from ports in COVID-19 affected areas.

**Preventive measures:** Vessel Owners, Company Security Officers, Designated Persons Ashore, Masters and SSOs of Liberian Ships trading in areas which are experiencing an outbreak of COVID-19 are encouraged to implement measures to prevent further spread of COVID-19.

The provisions contained in the Ships Security Plan, which provide a framework for establishing measures preventing unauthorized access to ships, may also be effective in preventing the spread of the virus to ships and seafarers. These include conducting a risk assessment prior to entry into an affected port, assessing the preventive measures taken by those ports, and diligent application of access controls. Such measures may serve to support other actions aimed at preventing the spread of COVID-19 and thus enhance the safety of seafarers and persons with whom they may come into contact.

#### **Recommended preventive measures:**

1. Only persons cleared by local port officials, authorities and the Master should be allowed on board, including marine/harbor pilots, technicians, ship agents, etc.
2. Limit visitor access to the vessel as much as possible.
3. Minimize interpersonal exchanges with persons from ashore, avoiding contact with people who show symptoms of flu or high temperature and taking care of personal hygiene including more frequent handwashing, etc.
4. Limit, as much as possible, shore side persons direct access to internal spaces of the vessel.
5. If possible, designate a central location/room with direct access from the outside and enclosed toilet to receive authorized persons from shore in order to avoid unnecessary physical contact and possible contamination inside the vessel.

6. The Masters should take precautions to minimize the potential spread of the virus among seafarers if symptoms appear. Isolate the seafarer to a location preferably with segregated ventilation and different than the common areas used by seafarers such as, seafarers lounge, gym, mess rooms, etc.,
7. If authorized persons need to enter the vessel, ensure they are wearing or, if possible, provide them with applicable mask and gloves.
8. Avoid shaking hands.
9. Wipe down areas and items visitors have touched or may have touched with disinfectant wipes and/or sprays.
10. Hand-washing is the best way to reduce the risk of infection being transmitted from one person to another:
  - a. hands should be washed before and after every contact with a patient, using alcohol-based gels or liquids rather than soap to disinfect the hands;
  - b. the use of gloves does not replace the need for hand-washing
  - c. wear masks and take precautionary measures to avoid getting infected and prevent its potential spreading.

When entering ports, seafarers may be required to remain on board their ships and disembark their vessels only where necessary.

It is reported that some Country authorities are requiring all vessels to report the temperature and condition of vessel's crew before entry into the port.

**Suspected infection:** Actions to take when a seafarer or passenger is suspected of being infected with COVID-19:

1. Suspected infected seafarer or passenger (see Table 23.2 of "[International Medical Guide for Ships](#)" issued by the World Health Organization).
  - a. Isolate the infected person in a single-berth cabin: door may be open; masks to be worn within one meter of patient.
  - b. Contacts to wear disposable gloves; for close contact (e.g. to bathe or turn the patient); plastic overalls or aprons also essential
2. Vessel operators and Masters are reminded that they are required to report sick seafarers prior to entering port.

The following links provides further advice and guidance to seafarers and shipping (non-exhaustive list):

- International Maritime Health Association (IMHA) advice for shipping companies on the new type of coronavirus (2019-nCoV) - [Link](#)
- IMO - Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) – [Link](#)
- WHO - issues advice on international travel and health - [Link](#)
- [UN News](#)
- USCG – MSIB Novel Coronavirus – Updated (Change 2) - [Link](#) Updated 13 March 2020
- US MARAD Administration MSC Advisory 2020-004 – [Link](#)
- [ICS Coronavirus - Guidance for Ship Operators for the Protection of the Health of Seafarers - Link](#)
- [Wilhelmsen Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Global Port Restrictions Map - Link](#)

We recommend checking with the relevant Port Agents and Authorities for further information.

If you have additional questions or concerns, please contact the Fleet Performance Department at [prevention@liscr.com](mailto:prevention@liscr.com).

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