

COVID-19 Pandemic Berth Operations - Enhanced Precautions

January 2021

Introduction

Ports of Jersey recognises that there are a large number of local personnel who are involved with the turnaround of commercial vessels which provide essential services to the Bailiwick of Jersey during the COVID-19 pandemic.

This document focuses on safety measures to reduce the risk of catching and/or transmitting the virus that causes COVID-19 and to support effective contact tracing.

This procedure should be read and followed in addition to individual commercial vessel operator, Solent Stevedores and Ports of Jersey COVID-19 response plans and requirements.

1) Hazard Identification

- a) Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) is an infectious disease caused by a newly discovered coronavirus.
- b) A newly identified variant of the virus that causes COVID-19 has recently been identified and appears to be more transmissible.
- c) The COVID-19 virus spreads primarily through respiratory droplets which are expelled when an infected person talks, coughs or sneezes.
- d) The virus can survive for up to 72 hours out of the body on contaminated surfaces.
- e) People can pick up the virus by breathing in the droplets or by touching contaminated surfaces and then touching their eyes, mouth and face.
- f) Aerosol transmission of the virus can occur in enclosed, poorly ventilated environments.

2) General Guidance

- a) GoJ public health guidance should be followed at all times - [COVID19 GoJ Public Health Measures](#)
 - i) **Hand washing/sanitising** should be undertaken at regular intervals and additionally during exposure to high traffic public areas and following contact or interaction with staff and crew involved in a vessel turnaround
 - ii) **Feeling unwell**, stay at home and seek advice from a medical professional/GoJ COVID helpline. If you are showing at least 1 of the three main symptoms of the coronavirus, you should immediately go into [isolation](#) and call the GoJ COVID helpline.
 - iii) **Physical distance** of at least 2 metres should be observed where possible.
- b) **Minimal contact** with external personnel, passengers and vessel crew should be observed, including the avoidance of boarding a vessel unless absolutely necessary and operationally critical.
- c) **Respiratory etiquette** "Catch It, Kill It, Bin It".
- d) **Face coverings should be used in accordance with** [GoJ Public health guidance on face masks](#)
- e) **Recommended PPE** should be donned before the vessel arrives and, disposed of appropriately after each operation.

3) Passive follow-up requirements

All staff involved with vessel turnaround are subject to passive follow-up requirements as described in the following section.

- a) Personnel must at all times be vigilant for symptoms, however mild, of COVID-19
 - i) Should anyone experience at least 1 of the three main symptoms of the coronavirus, they should immediately go into isolation and call the helpline and must comply with any instructions given by the helpline and Track/Trace thereafter;

4) Specific requirements for Vessel Crew and Ships Agents

- a) GoJ public health guidance should be followed at all times - [COVID19 GoJ Public Health Measures](#)
 - i) **Vessel crew should remain onboard** the vessel whilst in port unless there is an emergency situation on-board the vessel.
 - ii) **Minimal contact** with shore/vessel personnel, unless absolutely necessary and operationally critical. All interaction between ship and shore personnel should take place with a minimum of 2 meters separation which will be maintained at all times.
 - iii) **Documentation** should be sent electronically.
 - iv) **Face coverings should be used in accordance with** [GoJ Public health guidance on face masks](#)
 - v) **All shared surfaces**, must be wiped down before and after use and before local staff come into contact with the trailer.
 - vi) **Unaccompanied vehicles**, where possible seat coverings should be used by operators in preparation for local staff to drive them off the vessel. Gloves should be disposed of after each vehicle has been driven.
 - vii) **Vessel crew should not touch** stevedore tug air lines, trailers legs or other surfaces where there is not operational reason to do so.

5) Specific requirements for Linesmen and Stevedores

- a) Prior to the vessel arriving, all linesmen should ensure that they wear the following PPE in accordance with GoJ Public Health guidance:
 - i) Face coverings should be used (stevedoring only)
 - ii) Clean gloves (rigger or disposable)
 - iii) *Reusable safety goggles – optional*
 - iv) *Disposable overalls (painter/decorator style) - optional*
- b) The handling of the ship's ropes should only be carried out by employees who are wearing the minimum PPE.
- c) Once a pair of heavy-duty rigger gloves has been used, the gloves should be wiped down using general cleaning wipes.
- d) PPE should be disposed of immediately at the end of a vessel turnaround and hands washed or sanitised afterwards.

6) Contingency plans

- a) Prior to every arrival, the vessel will send a signed Medical Declaration of Health to St Helier VTS - sthelievts@ports.je and advise St Helier VTS of any sickness on board on VHF Channel 14.
- b) In the eventuality of crew becoming symptomatic/unwell whilst the vessel is docked in Jersey, plans must be in place to deal with the situation as quickly as possible noting the requirements of the commercial vessel operators COVID-19 Response Plan.
This should include:
 - i) Separation by physical distancing from other crew and passengers as far as is reasonably practicable, and isolation in a cabin if possible.
 - ii) Identification to St Helier VTS of symptomatic crew