

	Information Notice 2020-002
	DEPARTMENT OF MARINE SERVICES AND MERCHANT SHIPPING (ADOMS)
	Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) Guidance

1 Introduction

- .1 This Information Notice provides guidance to all owners and operators of Antigua and Barbuda ships on the Novel Coronavirus, based on recommendations developed by the World Health Organization (WHO) on the precautions to be taken to minimize risks to seafarers, passengers and others on board ships from the Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV).
- .2 Cases of the virus have been reportedly exported from Wuhan to other Chinese provinces and to Thailand, Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, Macau, Hong Kong, Singapore, Saudi Arabia, Vietnam, USA, UK, France and Australia, and further global spread to other countries is possible.

2 The Novel Coronavirus

- .1 The WHO states that the Coronaviruses are a large family of respiratory viruses that can cause diseases ranging from the common cold to the Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) and the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS).
- .2 Common signs of infection include respiratory symptoms, fever, cough, shortness of breath and breathing difficulties. In more severe cases, infection can cause pneumonia, severe acute respiratory syndrome, kidney failure and even death. Infection from humans to humans may occur during the incubation period (before persons show signs of sickness).
- .3 The Coronavirus can cause more severe symptoms in people with weakened immune systems, older people, and those with long-term conditions like diabetes, cancer and chronic lung disease.
- .4 In case of symptoms suggestive of acute respiratory illness before, during or after travel, the travellers are encouraged to seek medical attention and share travel history with their health care provider.
- .5 WHO is receiving information about cases from a number of countries. As additional details become known, WHO requests countries to share information in a timely manner as specified in the guidance on Global Surveillance for human infection with Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV).

3 Mitigating Action

- .1 Attention is directed to [IMO Circular Letter No. 4204](#) dated 31 January 2020 for specific information and guidance on the Novel Coronavirus – a copy attached for convenient reference. It is highly recommended that owners and operators follow up on what local authorities, for intended ports of call, are recommending, and stay up-to-date on the latest advice from the WHO.
- .2 The following are specific advice to shipping crew and companies as published by the International Maritime Health Association (IMHA) as of 26 January 2020:
 - .1 Do not restrict embarkation /disembarkation of seafarers in non-affected ports;
 - .2 Do not restrict necessary ship visits by port agents, chaplains, service personnel and others;
 - .3 Do not visit Food Markets in China. Avoid provision of fish and poultry in China;
 - .4 Do not consume raw eggs, milk, meat;
 - .5 For galley: Observe strict food hygiene to avoid cross contamination;
 - .6 Store facial protection for all crew (5 pieces per person);
 - .7 Provide influenza vaccination, alcohol-based hand rub and facial protection to ship inspector and other company employees who travel to China;
 - .8 If a person on board falls sick and has been travelling to affected areas 2-12 days before embarkation, the person must stay in his cabin. Consult a Medical Doctor in the next port;
 - .9 If a sick person is on board the ship, fill in the Maritime Declaration of Health and notify port authority; and
 - .10 For further information visit: www.who.int

Published at St. John's, Antigua on the 4th February 2020.