

**GENERAL PROTOCOL OF BIOSECURITY  
MEASURES FOR THE ENTRY OF  
COMMERCIAL AND NON-COMMERCIAL  
VESSELS TO GALÁPAGOS, IN THE CONTEXT  
OF THE HEALTH EMERGENCY DUE TO  
COVID-19**

**PROVINCIAL OPERATIONS AND  
EMERGENCIES COMMITTEE  
GALAPAGOS**



## CONTENT

<b>one. OBJECTIVES .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>two. SCOPE.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>3. LEGAL FRAMEWORK .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Four. DEFINITIONS AND / OR ABBREVIATIONS .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5. INSTITUTIONAL AND SHIPPING AGENTS RESPONSIBILITIES .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>6. GENERAL GUIDELINES .....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>7. SPECIFIC GUIDELINES .....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>8. RECORD OF REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE DOCUMENT .....</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>9. CONTROL AND HISTORY OF CHANGES .....</b>	<b>16</b>

## **one. OBJECTIVES**

### **1.1 Overall objective**

Determine the biosecurity measures that must be applied in commercial and non-commercial vessels that enter the province of Galapagos, in order to protect the health and safety of the crew and occupants, reducing the risk of contagion of COVID-19.

### **1.2 Specific objectives**

**1.2.1 Establish the sanitary requirements that the crews of**  
commercial and non-commercial vessels upon entering Galapagos previously authorized by the Competent Authority.

**1.2.2 Establish the guidelines for the process of entry and exit of**  
commercial and non-commercial vessels to the ports of the province of Galapagos, in accordance with current national and international regulations.

**1.2.3 Determine the responsibilities and functions of the authorities**  
competent authorities, the shipping agents and other institutions that intervene during the process of entry and exit of commercial and non-commercial vessels to the ports of the province of Galapagos.

**1.2.4 Reduce the risk of contagion of COVID-19 to people in the transport of**  
commercial and non-commercial vessels to the Galápagos Island region, in accordance with current national and international regulations.

## **two. SCOPE**

This protocol is mandatory for application to shipowners, shipping agents, crew members and occupants of commercial and non-commercial vessels that enter the province of Galapagos with autographs issued by DIGEIM and those based on the Maritime Police Code.

## **3. LEGAL FRAMEWORK**

- Constitution of the Republic of Ecuador;
- Public and State Security Law;
- Organic Law of Health;

- Manual of the Committee of Emergency Operations COE;
- Ministerial Agreement No. 00126-2020-Declaration of a State of Sanitary Emergency, issued by the Ministry of Public Health;
- Executive Decree 2393;
- Regulation of Health and Safety of Workers and Improvement of the Work Environment;
  
- Organic Law of the Special Regime for the province of Galapagos (LOREG);
- Regulation of the Organic Law of the Special Regime for the province of Galapagos;
  
- Code of the Maritime Police of Ecuador;
- General Law of Ports;
- Executive Decree 723 - The Undersecretariat of Ports and Maritime and Fluvial Transportation, is in charge of the rectory, planning, regulation and technical control of the maritime, river and port transportation system;
- The International Health Regulations (IHR);
- Interministerial Agreement No. 00001 of March 12, 2020, the Ministry of Government and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility and Public Works, issued the regulations for compliance with Mandatory Preventive Isolation (APO) for travelers arriving in Ecuador;
  
- Interministerial Agreement No. 00002 of March 12, 2020, the Ministry of Government and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility and Public Works, made a scope of the regulations for compliance with Mandatory Preventive Isolation (APO) for travelers arriving at the Ecuador;
- Agreement No. 00126-2020-Declaration of a State of Sanitary Emergency.
- IMO Circular No. 4204;
- Special Regulation of Tourism in Protected Natural Areas;
- Board Resolution ABG No. D-ABG-032-05-2018. Instructions for  
Regulations to Prevent the Entry and Dispersion of Terrestrial and / or Marine Organisms to and between the Galapagos Islands through Maritime Transportation;
- Resolution of Environmental Standards DPNG-0028-2019;
- Ministerial Agreement No. 00009 - 2020 published in Special Edition No. 567 of the Official Registry, the Minister of Public Health extends the state of Sanitary Emergency for thirty (30) days, from the end of the validity of Ministerial Agreement 00126-2020, being able to be extended again once completed, if necessary; and
  
- Executive Decree 1074: declaration of State of Expectation due to public calamity throughout the national territory due to the presence of COVID 19 in Ecuador and due to the health emergency that the Ecuadorian State is going through.

#### Four. DEFINITIONS AND / OR ABBREVIATIONS

##### 4.1 ABG.- Agency for the Regulation and Control of Biosafety and Quarantine for Galapagos

**4.2 Autograph.** - Resolution issued by DIGEIM for authorization of income from foreign ships to the Galapagos Islands and Ecuadorian Territorial Waters

**4.3 Forced arrival.** - Emergency entry of any ship, in which being at risk safety and human life, under the Maritime Police Code an entry to the port is authorized, complying with the guidelines established in the same rule, and under the subordination of the respective Harbor Master's Office

**4.4 Shipping agent.** - It is the natural or legal person that represents the shipowner in the administrative and commercial procedures related to all the procedures related to the scale of the ship, accepting on behalf of the shipowner, the rights and obligations that correspond to him in said procedures.

**4.5 Ayora Radio.** - Puerto Ayora Coastal Station

**4.6 Biosecurity.** - It is the application of knowledge, techniques and equipment to prevent people, laboratories, hospital areas and the environment from exposure to potentially infectious agents or those considered biohazard.

**4.7 Covid-19.-** As defined by the WHO, "it is the infectious disease caused by the most recently discovered coronavirus. Both the new virus and the disease were unknown before the outbreak in Wuhan, China, in December 2019 "

**4.8 Suspicious case:** A suspicious case is considered to be patients who comply one of the following criteria:

- A patient with acute respiratory illness (fever and at least one sign / symptom of respiratory illness, for example: cough, shortness of breath), and a history of travel or residence in a country or locality in Ecuador, reporting community transmission of COVID-19 disease, during the 14 days before the onset of symptoms;
- A patient with an acute respiratory illness and who has been in contact with a confirmed or probable COVID-19 case (see definition of close contact) in the last 14 days before the onset of symptoms;
- A patient with severe acute respiratory illness (fever and at least one sign / symptom of respiratory illness, eg, cough, shortness of breath; and requiring hospitalization in the absence of a confirmed etiological diagnosis that fully explains the clinical presentation.

**4.9 Probable case.-** A suspected case for which the test for COVID-19 is not conclusive or if it tests positive using a pan-coronavirus test and without laboratory evidence of other respiratory pathogens.

**4.10 Confirmed case:** Person with laboratory confirmation of infection COVID-19, regardless of clinical signs and symptoms.

**4.11 CGREG.-** Governing Council of the Special Regime of the Province of Galapagos

**4.12 DIGEIM.-** Directorate General of Maritime Interests

**4.13 DIRNEA.-** National Directorate of Aquatic Spaces

**4.14 GNPS.-** Galapagos National Park Directorate

**4.15 EPP.-** It is any equipment or device intended to be used or held by the worker, to protect him from one or more risks and increase his safety or health at work.

**4.16 ESMENA.-** School of the National Merchant Navy

**4.17 Free Talk.-** Authorization of the Harbor Master for any vessel starts its operations in port, prior to compliance with the required regulations.

**4.18 MSP.-** Ministry of Public Health

**4.19 MINTUR.-** Ministry of Tourism of Ecuador

**4.20 Occupant.-** Owners and / or guests who will board their ships, yachts and sailboats, which can reach them by air.

**4.21 SPTMF.-** Undersecretary of Ports and Maritime and River Transport.

**4.22 Maritime Police Authority:** Ecuadorian Navy personnel who represents the National Maritime Authority.

**4.23 Nasopharyngeal swab real-time PCR test for detection of**

**COVID-19:** Type of test for detection of the viral load of the SARS-COV 2 / COVID-19 virus that involves taking a sample inside the respiratory tract through the nose and which is processed at the level of its genetic identification. It is a single shot.

**4.24 Crew:** Set of people who go in a boat dedicated to their maneuver and service.

## 5. INSTITUTIONAL AND SHIPPING AGENTS RESPONSIBILITIES

The following are institutional and shipping agent responsibilities, within the process of entry and exit of commercial and non-commercial vessels to ports in the province of Galapagos.

### 5.1 Shipping agents

- Request the results of the negative real-time PCR test of nasopharyngeal swab for detection of COVID-19, of all the crew and occupants.
- The shipping agency representing the vessel will be responsible for faithful compliance with the established protocol and timely communication, documentation and procedures required by each of the institutions involved in the process.
- Deliver at least 24 hours in advance the on-board inspection requests addressed to the competent authorities (CGREG - Technical Secretariat, ABG, MSP, Harbor Master, National Anti-narcotics Directorate, GNPS and other competent institutions) where the date and ports of arrival and departure in Galapagos, and Port from where the boat arrives.
- Immediately inform the MSP, ECU-911 and competent authorities if there is evidence of symptoms of the crew and occupants during the stay in the Insular Region.
- Remind the crew about the frequent use of safety implements and correct hand washing (masks, alcohol, etc.)

- Accompany the competent authorities, to the inspections carried out on board, to assist the crew with the appropriate corresponding PPE. (masks, alcohol, etc)
- Provide a 24/7 helpline for crew members
- Comply with the Current Legal Regulations for entering the country and Galapagos

## **5.2 Crew and occupants of the vessels**

- Comply with the Environmental and Biosafety Regulations for the entry of commercial and non-commercial vessels to the Galapagos Marine Reserve and the provisions of the National, Provincial and Cantonal COE.

## **5.3 Ministry of Public Health**

- Control and monitor mandatory notification events on all vessels.
- Comply with the provisions of international sanitary regulations.
- Maintain updated epidemiological profiles of sensitive surveillance that was carried out in the vessels that arrive in our province.
- Coordinate the taking and monitoring of the samples made to the crew and occupants of the vessels.
- Generate educational-communication actions and informative material on the different events of epidemiological impact.

## **5.4 Governing Council of the Special Regime of the Province of Galapagos**

For the entry of commercial and non-commercial vessels:

- Receipt of inspection request by the shipping agent.
- Coordinate and carry out the inspection of the boat in the requested port, by officials of the residence and immigration control unit, where documentation of departure from the port of origin, autograph of the ship and the payroll of the crew will be reviewed.
- Personal verification of immigration status to crew and payroll presented.
- Sale and issuance of Traffic Control Cards (TCT) for entry to the province of Galapagos to all members of the crew.
- Generate entry mobility to the province of Galapagos through the Comprehensive Residence Control System.

For the departure of commercial and non-commercial vessels:

- Coordinate and carry out the inspection of the vessel at the port requested by officials of the Residence and Migration Control Unit in order to verify the number of crew members leaving the province of Galapagos.

- Receipt of TCT delivered to the crew
- Generate the departure of the Galapagos province to the crew members through the residence control system.

#### **5.5 Galapagos National Park Directorate**

- Verify compliance with environmental standards for the entry of vessels to the Galapagos Marine Reserve.
- Verify compliance with current Regulations in the Protected Areas of Galapagos.
- Perform technical inspection of commercial and non-commercial vessels
- Perform the collection of the Tribute for Entrance to the Protected Areas of the Galapagos National Park.

#### **5.6 Agency for the Regulation and Control of Biosafety and Quarantine for Galapagos**

- Verify compliance with biosecurity measures in passengers, luggage and cargo.
- Verify compliance with biosecurity measures in the means of transport.
- Control and monitor the application of this protocol in accordance with the institutional powers and responsibilities

#### **5.7 Ministry of Tourism**

- Verify compliance with the protocols and guidelines issued by the National Tourism Authority for visits to tourist establishments.
- Assistance to tourists in emergencies that occur on board.
- Monitoring of local tourist service agencies registered with the National Authority that carry out the operation and intermediation activity in accordance with the contracting of services carried out by the shipping agent.

#### **5.8 General Directorate of Insular Aquatic Spaces (DIRGIN)**

DIRGIN will order the Port Captaincies the following actions:

- Carry out an inspection of the boat and verify documentation in accordance with its competencies.
- Grant Free Talk after the inspection and approval of the competent institutions.
- At the request of the Health Authority, issue provisions for the boat, crew and occupants.
- Verify compliance with biosecurity measures when disembarking.



- Authorize Forced Arrival after the corresponding verification.
- Execute the control functions according to their competences.

## 6. GENERAL GUIDELINES

- 6.1** All vessels will comply with what is specified in Art. 198 of the Code of Maritime Police with the autograph of DIGEIM and the authorization of the Environmental Maritime Authority.
- 6.2** This protocol will be complied with to obtain the authorization of free Talk of boats to Galapagos by the Maritime, Environmental and Sanitary Authority in the Province of Galapagos.
- 6.3** Based on the State of Exception due to the Sanitary Emergency, all vessels must comply with the biosecurity protocol established in each country before the respective departure; and upon arrival in the Province of Galapagos, comply with the protocols established by the National and Provincial COE of Galapagos.
- 6.4** This instrument and its updates will be valid from the approval in the National COE, until it terminates the health emergency due to COVID-19.
- 6.5** Cargo vessels operating in the province of Galapagos will be governed in accordance with the free talk protocol.
- 6.6** All vessels must enter the Galapagos Marine Reserve based on the delimited area of entry in the General Nautical Chart IOA20.
- 6.7** For the reception of vessels in the first port of arrival in the province, the personnel of the Ministry of Public Health and shipping agent must first approach (generate link, responsibility, language, documentation). After the on-site review by the MSP, the rest of the authorities may board and make the corresponding inspections, validating the documentation previously sent by email to all institutions and optimize reception times.
- 6.8** Once the inspection has been completed and the Joint Reception Act has been legalized, the Maritime Authority will grant the Free Talk of the boat.
- 6.9** While the boat with Free Talk, its crew and occupants subject to the general provisions established by the Provincial COE, the

respective traffic light and the provisions of local authorities, regarding the use of masks, social distancing, capacity and internal mobilization schedules.

**6.10 For vessels, that complying with this reception protocol,**

that has an autograph and also applies to carry out a tourist visit in the protected areas of Galapagos, must additionally comply with the visit protocols established by the Directorate of the Galapagos National Park, which will be detailed in the respective resolution with which the tourist visit is authorized with their respective itinerary

## **7. SPECIFIC GUIDELINES**

**7.1 Each of the steps indicated in this protocol will be followed by the**

responsible authorities, while the reception process is carried out by each of the commercial and non-commercial vessels. This protocol is not exclusive to the Protocol for the Arrival or Berthing of International Traffic Ships issued by the Undersecretariat of Maritime and Fluvial Transport (SPTMF-PRT-003) in force and the Free Talk procedure

**7.2 All crew and occupants must have a negative real-time PCR test**

nasopharyngeal swab for COVID-19 detection. Said test must be carried out in the last port 72 hours before departure and must be sent together with the request for inspection by the shipping agencies to the competent local authorities at least 24 hours before arrival in the province of Galapagos. The MSP will perform the verification of the PCR test result.

**7.3 For those crew members and occupants who enter the province of Galapagos**

On board the vessels with less than 8 days, counted from the departure of the foreign port until the arrival in the Province of Galapagos, they must complete 8 days of Mandatory Preventive Isolation-APO in the same vessel.

**7.4 In compliance with the provisions of the MSP regarding the APO of at least 8**

days, it is suggested to enter the Province of Galapagos with at least 8 days of continuous navigation from the port of departure to the port of arrival in the Galapagos Islands, so that after complying with the pertinent medical assessment, they can immediately start with the approved itinerary.



**7.5 All boats inside and outside must be disinfected and fumigated.** The captain of the ship must send to the shipping agency prior to arrival the fumigation and disinfection certificate issued by the authorized entity of the country of origin.


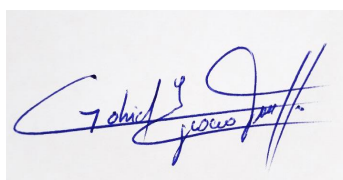
**7.6 The vessel must have on board, as part of its sanitary supplies necessary for the crew and occupants, the following items:**





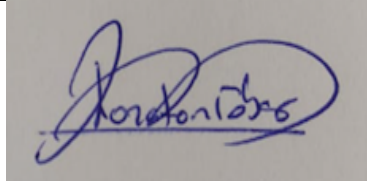
- Gel alcohol;
- Towels moistened with alcohol;
- Masks; and
- Safety glasses.

**7.7 The Captain of the vessel will send the shipping agency a health protocol internal,** which must be presented with the inspection request documentation to the competent institutions, which must be implemented by the crew and occupants during their stay in the province of Galapagos.


## 8. RECORD OF REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE DOCUMENT

Action	Name, charge	Institution	Firm
Produced by:	Mónica Páez Insular Zonal Director	MINTUR	
	Karla Tapia Public Server 5	MINTUR	
	Verónica Santamaría Director Public Use	GNPD - MAEA	
	Danny Rueda Director of the Galapagos National Park	DPNG-MAEA	
	Noemi D'Ozouville Office Advisor	CGREG	
	Daniel Calvopiña Productive Development Analyst	CGREG	

	Donaldo Naverrete, Director of Production and Human development	CGREG	
	Gabriel Bohorquez, Control and Surveillance Analyst two - Control Directorate Fishing resources. Zonal Address 5	MPCEIP	
	Marilyn Cruz, Executive Director	ABG	
	Danilo Jaya, Director of Normative and Prevention for Biosecurity	ABG	
	Viviana Duque, Director of Surveillance and Quality of Biosafety	ABG	
	Gabriel Vallejo, Lieutenant Commander - SU	Captaincy of Puerto Baquerizo Moreno	

	Fabián Bolaños, Analyst for Strengthening Water Transport 2	Undersecretariat of Ports and Maritime and River Transport	
	Jadira Larrea, Director of Productive and Sustainable Development	GAD Municipal Santa Cruz	
	Valentina Romero Director of Social and Sustainable Development	GAD Municipal Isabela	
	Mariuxi Johnjones, Director of Tourism and Culture	GAD Municipal San Cristóbal	
	Melisa Moreano, Galapagos District Director	MSP	
	Jhonatan Tobar, District Health Provision and Services Specialist	MSP	

Reviewed by:	Marilyn Cruz, Executive Director	ABG	
	Melisa Moreano, Galapagos District Director	MSP	
	Milton Aguas, Director	ECU911	
	Jimmy Bolaños, Director District Galapagos	MAG	
	Danny Rueda, Director Park Galapagos National	GNPD - MAEA	

	Mónica Páez, Director Zonal Insular	MINTUR	
	Donaldo Naverrete, Director of Production and Human development	CGREG	
	Gabriel Bohorquez, Control and Surveillance Analyst two - Control Directorate Fishing resources. Zonal Address 5	MPCEIP	
<b>Approved by:</b>	Norman Wray, Minister President President COE Provincial	CGREG	

## 9. CONTROL AND HISTORY OF CHANGES

Version	Description of the change	Update date	Requested by:
V1	Joint Review by all members	07/03/2020	MTT6 Provincial COE
V2	Joint Review by all members	07/06/2020	MTT6 Provincial COE
V3	Format settings	07/06/2020	MTT6 Provincial COE