

GUIDANCE

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SUBJECT MATTER: SARS-CoV-2 infection (COVID-19). Procedures for ports and travelers by sea

KEYWORDS: Coronavirus; Ports; Health authorities; Sea travel

FOR: Shipping Agencies, Maritime Authorities, Port Authorities and Port Health Authorities

CONTACTS: Support Unit for the National Health Authority and Public Health Emergency Management:
cesp@dgs.min-saude.pt

Under the terms of paragraph a) of no. 2 of article 2 of Regulatory Decree no. 14/2012, of 26 January, the following Guideline is issued:

1 Introduction

In accordance with the provisions of the International Health Regulations 2005 (IHR) ¹, all designated ports must develop a Contingency Plan to respond to public health events.

The Contingency Plan must follow the recommendations of the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Standards and Guidelines of the Directorate-General for Health (DGS) regarding infection with the new Coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) ² that progresses to COVID-19 disease ³, from Wuhan, Hubei province, China.

2 Procedures before a suspected case

2.1 On board a ship

- The person on board the ship, who identifies a suspected case (member of the crew or passenger) immediately informs the Commander;
- THE Commander immediately contacts the Navigation Agent, who must report the event as soon as possible, as soon as possible, to the next port of call or port of destination;
- The Shipping Agent contacts the Health Authority (Marine Health Service) of the port where the vessel is moored or the destination port;
- The Health Authority assesses the situation and, if the suspicion is confirmed:
 - It gives the first guidelines for the patient to be placed in isolation. The patient should be separate from other crew and passengers, and restrict activities outside your cabin
 - 4. The health facility for the patient's exclusive use should be indicated;
 - Guides to provide the patient with a surgical mask, provided that their condition clinic allows. The mask must be put on by the patient himself and well adjusted;
 - Call the Physician Support Line of the Directorate-General for Health (DGS) immediately (300 015 015), to validate the suspicion;

¹ <https://www.dgs.pt/autoridade-de-saude-nacional/regulamento-sanitario-internacional.aspx> ² Coronavirus Study Group (2020): <https://www.biorxiv.org/content/10.1101/2020.02.07.937862v1.full.pdf>

³ WHO (2020). [https://www.who.int/publications-detail/global-surveillance-for-human-infection-with-novel-coronavirus\(2019-ncov\)](https://www.who.int/publications-detail/global-surveillance-for-human-infection-with-novel-coronavirus(2019-ncov))

- If the Case is not validated by the DGS Physician Support Line, the situation is closed for infection by a new coronavirus 2019-nCoV, and the usual procedures provided for the management of patients on board, appropriate to the clinical situation, must be activated;
- If the Case is validated by the DGS Physician Support Line, must be followed the indications for patient management on board:
 - Only a designated crew member should assist the patient ⁴;
 - Keeping the patient on board ⁴ isolated, with surgical mask, as long as their clinical condition allow it and until the arrival of the team from the National Institute of Medical Emergency (INEM), activated by DGS;
- If the ship is moored, the INEM team will be able to enter the ship and ensure disembarkation of the patient to transport him from the port to the reference Hospital;
- It is forbidden for anyone to enter the cabin or isolation area where they are found the patient, until the cleaning and disinfection procedures were completed, or until the laboratory result was negative. This ban can only be lifted by the Health Authority;
- Information should be collected from contacts close to the validated suspected case, using the Passenger Location Card (CLP) (Annex I);
- Close contacts on board are considered:
 - People who have had direct contact with the patient (for example: family members, traveling companions (cabin) or people who assisted you, or others defined by the Health Authority.
- If the ship, with a patient on board, is at sea and has a port of destination in Portugal, the Maritime Search and Rescue Coordination Center (MRCC) articulates with CODUMar. The service doctor at CODU-Mar contacts the Physician Helpline to validate the case. All procedures previously described in the port are applied (activation of the INEM team to transport the patient, in conjunction with the Porto Health Authority).
- If the ship, with a patient on board, is at sea, it has no port of destination in Portugal and asks to bear, the Maritime Search and Rescue Coordination Center (MRCC) articulates with CODU-Mar. The service doctor at CODU-Mar contacts the Physician Helpline to validate the case. If the case is validated, the MRCC articulates with the Maritime Sanitary Health Authority designated for the purpose (national service roster), to support decision making regarding the port of arrival, in order to ensure the best efficiency of the entire patient management circuit and its transmission to the Commander. After defining the destination port, The Maritime Sanitary Health Authority of call informs the doctor of the DGS Physician Support Line, which activates the Regional Health Authority with jurisdiction in the geographical area of the port of destination. The Regional Health Authority must question the Health Authority of the port of destination,

⁴ The EU HEALTHY GATEWAYS Joint Action. Interim advice for preparedness and response to cases of the novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) infection at points of entry in the European Union (EU) / EEA Member States (MS) .Version 1. 27January2020.

to obtain information regarding the ship's terminal and berth. This precise information regarding the name of the ship and the berth should be communicated to LAM, which in turn, transmits the necessary information to the INEM team, which will ensure the disembarkation of the patient and the respective transport from the port to the reference Hospital.

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- The Maritime Declaration of Health^s (Annex 8 of the International Health Regulations) must be also introduced on the electronic platform, as usual.
- Free Practice to the ship with a suspected Infection Case by 2019-nCoV can only be issued after assessment of the situation by the Health Authority;

2.2 Suspected case at port facilities

Any member of the port community who identifies a person who falls under the definition of a suspected case of infection by 2019-nCoV in the port facility, should contact the head.

- The head informs the Port Facility Protection Officer (OPIP);
- OPIP contacts the Port Protection Officer (OPP);
- The OPP contacts the Health Authority.

The Health Authority assesses the situation and, if the suspicion is confirmed:

- It gives the first guidelines for:
 - If the patient is provided with a surgical mask, provided that their clinical condition allow. The mask must be put on by the patient himself and well adjusted;
 - Refer the patient to the isolation room / area defined in the Contingency Plan from the port, with access to a sanitary facility for exclusive use.
- In the isolation area of the port, the Health Authority:
 - Performs symptomatic assessment and epidemiological investigation;
 - Call the Physician Support Line (300 015 015), of the Directorate-General of the (DGS), to validate the suspicion;
 - The Porto Health Authority activates the procedures provided for in the Health Port contingency;
 - Prohibit the area / space of the port where the patient remained (until forwarded to the isolation room) for further cleaning and disinfection. The ban is only lifted by the Health Authority.
- If the Case **is not validated** by the DGS Physician Support Line, the situation is closed for infection with a new coronavirus 2019-nCoV, and the usual procedures for patient management in port facilities, appropriate to the clinical situation, must be activated.
- If the Case **is validated** by the DGS Physician Support Line:

^s <https://www.dgs.pt/autoridade-de-saude-nacional/ficheiros-externos/regulamento-sanitario-internacional-pdf.aspx>

- Keep the patient in the isolation room (with a surgical mask, as long as their clinical condition permits) until the arrival of the INEM team, activated by DGS;
- The Health Authority initiates the epidemiological investigation, and identifies the contacts close to the patient:
 - Passengers from the same cabin as the ship;
 - Traveling companions of the sick;
 - Other close contacts who were on board the ship (see definition above);
 - People who have supported you at the port facility, and others to be defined by the Health Authority.

3 Communication before a validated case

- DGS informs the Regional Health Authority of laboratory results;
- The Regional Health Authority informs the Port Health Authority;
- The Port Health Authority informs the Port Protection Officer, and:
 - If the case is confirmed by the laboratory, the Port Health Authority determines:
 - The deactivation of the Port Contingency Plan procedures, previously activated;
 - Lifts the ban on access to the cabin / isolation area;
 - If the case is confirmed, the cabin / isolation area must be kept isolated, until validation by the Health Authority, of the cleaning and disinfection procedures.
- The Port Health Authority must communicate to the Regional Health Authority the sanitary measures taken on board the ship and / or at port facilities.

4 Contacts surveillance

Upon confirmation of a case, in addition to the procedures previously described, active surveillance procedures for close contacts referred to in point 5.2 of DGS Guideline No. 002/2020 should also be activated.

5 Cleaning and decontamination

After a voyage with a confirmed case on board a ship, the following aspects must be taken into account:

- After the patient leaves, cleaning and disinfection procedures must be guaranteed;
- Cleaning must be carried out by professionals trained and trained in the use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) (gown, mask (preferably, FFP2), cap, eye protection glasses with side protectors and chemical resistant gloves (eg nitrile gloves)), according to Guideline No. 03/2020⁶;
- Compressed air equipment should not be used because of the risk of recirculation of aerosols⁷;

⁶ <https://www.dgs.pt/saude-aaz.aspx?v=%3d%3dBAAAAB%2bLCAAAAAABABLszU0AwArk10aBAAAAA%3d%3d#saude-de-a-az/coronavirus/2019-ncov>

⁷ Center for Disease Control and Prevention, Guidance about SARS for Airline Flight Crews, Cargo and Cleaning Personnel, and Personnel Interacting with Arriving Passengers, 2004

- Cleaning and disinfection should be enhanced, especially on surfaces that are frequently handled, especially those closest to the patient, most likely to be contaminated. Pay special attention to the cabin where the case was (for example, table / trays and other materials / equipment used by the patient);
- Single-use cleaning equipment should be used. If the equipment is multiple use, must be cleaned and disinfected after use;
- The application of disinfectants must be preceded by cleaning.
- Cleaning and disinfection of surfaces must be carried out with:
 - degreasing detergent, followed by
 - appropriate disinfectant and according to the manufacturer's recommendations;
- The treatment of bed linen / towels and dishes used by the patient, must follow the procedures contemplated in Guideline No. 03/2020;
- The previous recommendations apply equally to the isolation area and other potentially contaminated areas of port facilities;
- Biohazard waste (including hand wipes, tissues) is placed in a plastic bag which, after being closed, must be stored in a rigid container and sent for incineration or other similar method in terms of effectiveness.



Graça Freitas
Director-General of Health

Annex I
Passenger Location Card



Cartão de Localização de Passageiros

(Navio)

Este cartão destina-se à recolha do seu contacto pelas Autoridades de Saúde de Portugal.
Estes dados serão usados somente para fins de vigilância de contactos e prevenção do
surto de COVID-19.

Dados da Viagem

Nome do navio _____ Cabine onde viajou _____
Data e Hora de Chegada ____ / ____ / ____ : ____
Trajecto da Viagem De _____ Para _____
Tripulante? ____ Se sim, função? _____

Dados Pessoais

Nome Completo _____
Data de Nascimento ____ / ____ / ____ Idade ____ Sexo F ☐ M ☐
Morada em Portugal _____
_____. Cód. Postal _____ - ____
Telemóvel / Telefone _____
E-mail _____@_____
Telemóvel/telefone de alguém
que o consiga contactar
rapidamente (Nome e Tlm) _____

(Ship)



Passenger Locator Form

This Form will help Public Health Officers of Portugal to contact you in the event you were exposed to a communicable disease.

Your information is intended to be held in accordance with applicable laws and used only for public health purposes to avoid COVID-19 outbreaks.

Travel Information

Name of the ship/Cruise ship _____ Cabine Number _____

Date and time of arrival ____ / ____ / ____ : ____

Travel itinerary From _____ To _____

Crew member? ____ If yes, duty/responsability? _____

Personal Information

Name _____

Date of Birth ____ / ____ / ____ Age ____ Sex F ☐ M ☐

Address in Portugal
(Permanent or temporary, if
you are a visitor) _____

ZIP/Postal Code _____ - _____

Mobile Phone / other phone _____

E-mail _____@_____

Emergency contact information
of someone who can reach you
(Name and mobile phone) _____