

Department: Chief Harbour Master

16 March 2020

To: SAASOA Members
Ship Owners and Agents
Bunker Operators
Ship Chandlers
Off shore Operators

CC: Executive Manager SHE
Port Managers
Harbour Masters
Deputy Harbour Masters
Senior Operations Managers
Marine Health & Safety Manager
Port Health
SAMSA

TO BE COMMUNICATED INTERNALLY & EXTERNALLY

CHIEF HARBOUR MASTER – NOTICE No. 3 - HEALTH RISK ALERT – COVID-19

1. BACKGROUND

As per the World Health Organisation(WHO) daily situation reports regarding Covid-19, there has been an increase in the number of global cases reported and the number of fatalities related to the disease. WHO has declared the coronavirus a global epidemic and has rated the risk as very high. South Africa had 2 cases on 7 March and the latest on 14 March 1 week later has seen 38 cases, which has now risen to 61 on 15 March 2020.

A coronavirus is a kind of virus that causes an infection in your nose, sinuses, or upper throat. The suggested treatment is good hygiene, prevent large crowds

The risks of contracting the corona virus, if not managed properly, are very high at land, air and sea ports where all foreign visitors transit.

Transnet National Ports Authority is responsible for the management of 8 commercial ports in South Africa and we value our employees, stakeholders and port users. It is important for us to review the risks and address any gaps, in preventing the spread of the disease. Due to the global risks and the rapid increase of cases in South Africa, TNPA has implemented additional measures to the exiting restrictions ports have imposed on ships calling to South African Ports and vessels calling off port limits. Taking into account the Presidents message – declaring the pandemic a National State of Disaster.

2. ADDITIONAL MEASURES

The following additional measures will be effective immediately:

- 2.1. It is important that all vessel Masters make accurate declarations of health and wellbeing of the crew, and if in doubt, consult with a medical practitioner to be arranged by the vessel agent. Masters unable to communicate in English stand the risk of not receiving services until a translator is arranged by the vessel agent. Any false declaration will be viewed in a serious light and reported to the South African Maritime Authority and Health Officials for further action.
- 2.2. Masters of all vessels are required to display the "Q" Flag if all onboard are healthy and Free Pratique has **not been** granted by Port Health – means the master declares that all crew & personnel onboard are healthy and he/she requests Free Pratique.
- 2.3. The Q Flag is to remain raised on the main mast until the vessel has been cleared by Port Health and Free Pratique has been granted.
- 2.4. Pilots are to make use of issued personal protective equipment (PPE) when boarding any vessel to protect themselves, even if the master has declared all onboard are healthy. The disposable PPE is to be removed after every vessel and placed in a sealed plastic bag. The pilot transport vehicle and the pilot boat/helicopter will be provided with designated hazardous waste containers. The clinic will remove these hazardous waste before the end of the shift.
- 2.5. All waste removal from Off Port Limit vessels and vessels at anchorages are to cease immediately until advised otherwise.
- 2.6. Galley waste will no longer be accepted at any ports and are to be incinerated on board the vessel.
- 2.7. Vessels from the following ports in China, Italy, Iran, South Korea, Spain, France, Germany, USA, Switzerland, UK, Norway or other high and medium risk area - No waste including galley waste will be disposed off in any South African port.
- 2.8. Off port limit activities involve private operators, who are more commercially inclined with limited control by the authorities – this creates a risk to the country. It is therefore essential for all off port limit activities involving foreign vessels and crews to be suspended until further notice.

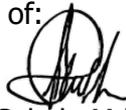
Considering the short flights from other countries to South Africa, with transit time under 14 days and the transit through other airports, it is not practical to quarantine all people arriving into South African ports. It is therefore essential to restrict and suspend any specialists visiting from foreign countries until further notice.

- 2.9. Permission from Port Health and the Harbour Master's office is required prior to any interaction with vessels (i.e. vessels with any person having any illness). This also applies to bunker barges/ships and small vessels.
- 2.10. Shore leave for crew to be limited for essential services only with a limit on the number of crew leaving together. Visitors to vessels restricted to essential personnel only.
- 2.11. Limited interaction between bunker operator and vessels permitted. Crew to ensure gloves are provided and used when handling mooring lines & all preventative precautions are upheld – no crew changes permitted for bunker barges or vessel taking fuel from foreign countries.
- 2.12. No crew changes will be permitted for any off-Port Limit calls including vessels at anchorage.
- 2.13. Vessel passenger and crew transfers will not be permitted in any of the South African Ports.

Suspected cases should be discussed with public health call line no.

0800 029 999. The local Port Health Office, Harbour Master and Agency must be informed of any suspected cases.

By order of:



Captain Sabelo Mdlalose
Acting Chief Harbour Master
Transnet National Ports Authority

DATE: 16/03/2020