



MARINE NOTICE NO.16-2020

**TO: ALL SHIPOWNERS, OPERATORS, TRAINING INSTITUTIONS, MASTERS,
AND SEAFARERS OF MERCHANT SHIPS AND RECOGNIZED ORGANIZATIONS**

SUBJECT: GUIDANCE ON CORONA VIRUS (COVID-19) OUTBREAK:

Introduction

1. The purpose of this circular is to provide updated information and guidance, based on recommendations developed by the World Health Organization (WHO), United Nations, and the national guideline issued by F.D.R.E Ministry of Health on the precautions to be taken to minimize risks to seafarers, passengers and others on board Ethiopian Ships and Ethiopian seafarers on foreign ships from the recent outbreak of novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV).

Background

2. On 31 December 2019, WHO was alerted to several cases of pneumonia in Wuhan City, Hubei Province of China. Subsequently, on 7 January 2020, Chinese authorities confirmed that they had identified a new virus in the coronavirus family of viruses, which includes the common cold and viruses such as SARS and MERS. This new virus was temporarily named "2019-nCoV".
3. On 30 January 2020, WHO declared that the outbreak of novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) constituted a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC).
4. WHO is working closely with global experts, governments and partners to rapidly expand scientific knowledge on this new virus, to track the spread and virulence of the virus, and to provide advice to countries and individuals on measures to protect health and prevent the spread of this outbreak.
5. As of 17 February 2020, all suspected tests in Ethiopia have been concluded confirmed negative and no reported case from Ethiopian ships.



MARINE NOTICE NO.16-2020

Symptoms

6. 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). 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.

Risks

7. The current outbreak originated in Wuhan City, which is a major domestic and international transport hub. Given the large population movements and the observed human-to-human transmission, it is expected that new confirmed cases will continue to appear in other areas and countries.

WHO and The F.D.R.E Ministry of health Advice

8. It is prudent to remind populations and health workers of the basic principles to reduce the general risk of transmission of acute respiratory infections by following the below-mentioned key preventative measures:
 - I. Avoiding close contact with people suffering from acute respiratory infections;
 - II. Frequent hand washing, especially after direct contact with ill people or their environment;
 - III. Avoiding unprotected contact with farm or wild animals;
 - IV. People with symptoms of acute respiratory infection should practice cough etiquette (maintain distance, cover coughs and sneezes with disposable tissues or clothing, and wash hands); and
 - V. Within healthcare facilities, enhance standard infection prevention and control practices in hospitals, especially in emergency departments.



MARINE NOTICE NO.16-2020

9. WHO does not recommend any specific health measures for travelers. In case of symptoms suggestive of acute respiratory illness either during or after travel, travelers are encouraged to seek medical attention and share their travel history with their healthcare provider.
10. Travelers who had contact with confirmed cases or direct exposure to a potential source of infection should be placed under medical observation. High-risk contacts should avoid travel for the duration of the incubation period (up to 14 days).
11. Novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) advice for the public published on the WHO website contains WHO standard recommendations for the general public to reduce exposure to and transmission of a range of illnesses, to protect yourself and others from getting sick, and to stay healthy while travelling. WHO provides novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) travel advice here: <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>
With the information currently available for the novel coronavirus, WHO advises that measures to limit the risk of exportation or importation of the disease should be implemented, without unnecessary restrictions on international traffic.
12. Anyone coming from Wuhan (where the infection starts) should be reported and Quarantined irrespective of symptoms.
13. The ministry is ready to assist in any circumstances including exit screening anywhere in the country

The following contact persons are actively involved and readily available

- 1 Dr yaregal. 0972 637377
- 2 Ato Mikiyas. 0921 746100
- 3 Ato Mesfin. 0912 756667



MARINE NOTICE NO.16-2020

The Ethiopian Maritime Affairs Authority recommends implementing the following measures on board ships:

14. Seafarers calling Chinese and other reported ports are advised to wear masks and take precautionary measures to avoid getting infected with a new coronavirus and prevent its potential spreading.
15. When entering Chinese and other reported ports, seafarers are expected to remain onboard their ships and disembark their vessels only when it is absolutely necessary.
16. In case of any suspected case of coronavirus is found onboard, and if any symptomatic person is observed the master shall prepare the ship clinic with the necessary equipment and immediately isolate, treat, report to the local authorities and owners immediately and arranges to seek professional medical assistance from ashore for the affected crewmember /s as early as possible.
17. At the same time, proper prevention and separation measures should be taken to avoid contact with other crewmembers to reduce the possibility of any virus being spread.
18. Frequent hand wash, avoid close contact with anyone showing symptoms of respiratory illness such as coughing and sneezing onboard or ashore.
19. Strictly enforce the ISPS requirements on ensuring that unauthorized personnel do not board the ship throughout the ships port calls.
20. In the event that the operating company has coordinated an inspection or audit in the affected ports and if it cannot be carried out by prevention measures, for that reason, it may request an authorization from this Administration to postpone it to the next port.
21. The master is advised to regularly check updates and port entry requirements related to this disease from port controls, WHO, IMO and other related bodies.



MARINE NOTICE NO.16-2020

Guidance available

22. The following links provide advice and guidance to seafarers and shipping (non-exhaustive list):

- I. International Maritime Health Association (IMHA) advice for shipping companies on the new type of coronavirus (2019-nCoV) USCG Novel Coronavirus Precautions
- II. WHO issues advice on international travel and health. This information is regularly reviewed and updated by WHO and can be found at the following address:

www.who.int/ith/updates Additional information can also be found at:

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2020/01/1056031>

https://www.who.int/ith/other_health_risks/en/

23. The publications listed below may also be helpful:

WHO International Health Regulations

WHO Guide to ship sanitation International Medical Guide for Ships

Source: IMO circular letter 4204, 4204.add.2; WHO and national advice on Corona virus