



16600  
April 9, 2020

Subj: ATTESTATION OF HAZARDOUS CONDITION FOR M/V

An outbreak of respiratory illness caused by novel coronavirus (COVID-19) is affecting mariners and maritime commerce. The U.S. Coast Guard has determined that the potential spread of COVID-19 from infected crew and passenger presents a hazardous condition which may affect the safety of the vessel, other vessels in the port and the port itself. Failure to immediately report hazardous conditions to the COTP is a violation of federal regulation (33 C.F.R. § 160.216) and may result in civil penalties, vessel detention, or criminal prosecution.

Prior to clearance for entry into a U.S. port, contact the nearest Coast Guard Sector Command Center and the Vessel Masters must confirm that no COVID-19 related hazardous conditions are present on the vessel by truthfully attesting to the below statements. If any of the below conditions are present aboard the vessel the Master must immediately report them to the nearest COTP. Please immediately remit this attestation to the COTP in the zone from which you received it. When arriving to the Sector Houston-Galveston COTP zone, this attestation must go to all of the following email addresses: [D08-SMB-VTSHouston-Targeting@uscg.mil](mailto:D08-SMB-VTSHouston-Targeting@uscg.mil) and [inspectionsmsutexas@uscg.mil](mailto:inspectionsmsutexas@uscg.mil).

- 1) I \_\_\_\_\_, Master of the vessel \_\_\_\_\_, hereby attest that there are NO passengers or crew aboard this vessel that are or have exhibited one or more COVID-19 or other flu-like symptoms in the past 14 days. A list of symptoms can be found in Maritime Safety Information Broadcast 06-20.

Initial and Date here only if this statement is true

\_\_\_\_\_

- 2) I \_\_\_\_\_, Master of the vessel \_\_\_\_\_, hereby attest that there are NO passengers or crew aboard this vessel that have been to China (excluding Hong Kong, and Macau), Iran, the Schengen area, the United Kingdom, or the Republic of Ireland in the past 14 days.

Initial and Date here only if this statement is true

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Persons are not required to respond to the collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. The requirement to immediately report hazardous conditions is an OMB approved collection assigned number 1625-0100. This attestation is not "information" as that term is defined in 5 CFR 1320.3(h).





# Marine Safety Information Bulletin

Commandant  
U.S. Coast Guard  
Inspections and Compliance Directorate  
2703 Martin Luther King Jr Ave SE, STOP 7501  
Washington, DC 20593-7501

MSIB Number: 06-20  
Date: March 13, 2020

E-Mail: [OutbreakQuestions@uscg.mil](mailto:OutbreakQuestions@uscg.mil)

## Vessel Reporting Requirements for Illness or Death

An outbreak of respiratory illness caused by novel coronavirus (COVID-19) is affecting mariners and maritime commerce. This MSIB serves as a reminder that the illness of persons on board a vessel must be reported to both the Coast Guard and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Reporting delays create significant challenges to protect persons on board vessels and, more broadly, maintain an effective Marine Transportation System. Vessels or masters that do not immediately report illness or death among passengers or crew may face delays and disruption to passenger and cargo operations including a requirement to return to the previous port after sailing. Additionally, vessels and masters are subject to Coast Guard enforcement action, which include civil penalties, vessel detentions, and criminal liability.

Illness of a person onboard a vessel that may adversely affect the safety of a vessel or port is a hazardous condition per 33 CFR 160.216 and the owner, agent, master, operator, or person in charge **must immediately** notify the nearest Coast Guard Captain of the Port (COTP). It is critical to report persons who exhibit symptoms consistent with COVID-19 or other illness to the COTP.

42 CFR 71.1 defines an ill person onboard a vessels as one that has:

**(A) Fever (has a measured temperature of 100.4 °F [38 °C] or greater; or feels warm to the touch; or gives a history of feeling feverish) accompanied by one or more of the following:**

- skin rash,
- **difficulty breathing** or suspected or confirmed pneumonia,
- **persistent cough** or cough with bloody sputum,
- decreased consciousness or confusion of recent onset,
- new unexplained bruising or bleeding (without previous injury),
- persistent vomiting (other than sea sickness)
- headache with stiff neck;

**(B) Fever that has persisted for more than 48 hours;**

**(C) Acute gastroenteritis, which means either:**

- diarrhea, defined as three or more episodes of loose stools in a 24-hour period or what is above normal for the individual, or
- vomiting accompanied by one or more of the following: one or more episodes of loose stools in a 24-hour period, abdominal cramps, headache, muscle aches, or fever (temperature of 100.4 °F [38 °C] or greater);

Additionally, as required by [42 CFR 71.21](#), the master of a ship destined for a U.S. port shall report *immediately* to the quarantine station at or nearest the port at which the ship will arrive, the occurrence, on board, of any death or any ill person among passengers or crew (including those who have disembarked or have been removed) during the 15-day period preceding the date of expected arrival or during the period since departure from a U.S. port (whichever period of time is shorter). Guidance and forms to report deaths and illnesses to the CDC can be found at: <https://go.usa.gov/xdjnj>.

Richard Timme, RDML, U.S. Coast Guard, Assistant Commandant for Prevention Policy sends.