



JAPAN P&I NEWS

Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV)

On 31 December 2019, cases of pneumonia of unknown cause in Wuhan Hubei Province of China were initially reported to [the World Health Organisation \(WHO\)](#). A novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) was identified as the causative virus by Chinese authorities on 7 January 2020. In response to the growing number of pneumonia suspected of being caused by the 2019-nCoV, WHO is still discussing declaring of Public Health Emergency of International Concern at the expert emergency meeting.

However, no licensed specific treatment or vaccine is available for use in people so, it is of critical importance to raise awareness of the risk factors for the 2019-nCoV infection and to take the protective measures for reduction in risk of infection. WHO recommends the following precautionary practices for travel to areas where pneumonia due to the new coronavirus is endemic as follow: ([WHO advice dated January 10, 2020](#))

- avoiding close contact with people suffering from acute respiratory infections;
- frequent hand-washing, especially after direct contact with ill people or their environment;
- avoiding close contact with live or dead farm or wild animals;
- travelers with symptoms of acute respiratory infection should practice cough etiquette (maintain distance, cover coughs and sneezes with disposable tissues or clothing, and wash hands).

It is also effective in preventing infectious diseases on board, so please take care of patients and to be vigilant about regular hand washing.

We have obtained the attached circular by Oasis P&I Services Company Limited, marine insurance and claims handling professionals in China suggesting shipowners to alert their vessels which are calling or will call Chinese ports in the near future.

Please refer to the WHO website for the latest information.

Yours faithfully,

The Japan Ship Owners' Mutual Protection & Indemnity Association

Attachment: OASIS P&I Services Company Limited Circular No.2001



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Oasis Circular No.: 2001

Subject: Alert over the Outbreak of a New Coronavirus in China

The outbreak of a new coronavirus stemming from the inland city, Wuhan, Hubei province, has taken nine lives and afflicted more than 440 others in China ahead of the Lunar New Year holiday during which hundreds of millions of people are expected to travel. Although currently Wuhan remains the most seriously affected city, confirmed cases of infection have been reported at other places including some port cities such as Shanghai, Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Tianjin, etc. Additional cases are identified in a growing number of countries internationally.

Wuhan virus: Where known cases have been found in Asia



The coronavirus, which causes a type of pneumonia, was first reported in late December 2019. Typical symptoms include **fever, cough, difficulty in breathing and fatigue**. Authorities have confirmed that this new virus can **spread between humans**.

Because the virus can pass from person to person, relevant medical and quarantine authorities in China are highly alerted to control and supervise any suspected cases. In case a crewmember is showing the typical symptoms on board and would like to disembark to see a doctor, it is very likely that additional checks and precautionary measures will be conducted by quarantine officers.

In view of the current situation, we would suggest ship owners to alert their vessels which are calling or will call Chinese ports in the near future until the situation improves:

(1) in case any suspected case of coronavirus is found on board, the ship should report to the owners immediately and arrange to seek professional medical assistance from ashore for the affected crewmember as early as possible. 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. Furthermore, owners are required to report such cases to local quarantine authorities under relevant laws.

(2) vessels visiting Chinese ports during this period are suggested to minimize interpersonal exchanges with people from ashore as much as possible. Ships are also reminded to alert the crew of the risks at ports where coronavirus cases have been reported and require them to take necessary precautionary measures such as wearing masks, etc.

(3) During the ship's stay at Chinese ports where confirmed cases have been reported, the crew are suggested to be more careful with personal hygiene, such as wearing masks, washing hands more frequently, avoiding contact with people who show symptoms of flu or high temperature etc. Disembarkation is suggested to be avoided unless it is absolutely necessary.

We hope the above is of assistance. Should you have any query, please feel free to contact us.

Best regards,

Oasis P&I Services Company Limited