



MARITIME AND PORT AUTHORITY OF SINGAPORE

PORT MARINE CIRCULAR
NO. 02 OF 2020

1 February 2020

Harbour Craft Community
Pleasure Craft Community
Shipping Community

Extension of Precautionary Measures to Minimise Risk of Community Spread of the Wuhan Coronavirus in Singapore

1. Since 24 January 2020, the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA) has implemented temperature screening at all sea checkpoints, including ferry and cruise terminals, PSA terminals and Jurong Port, for inbound travellers. MPA has also put up health advisories at the sea checkpoints to inform travellers and ship crew on the precautionary measures to take when travelling, as well as to remain vigilant and adopt good hygiene practices.
2. Some shipping companies have taken additional precautionary measures such as disallowing shore leave for personnel in China ports, mandatory temperature checks, keeping a log of crew movements and restricting staff travel to China.
3. In line with Singapore Ministry of Health's (MOH) press release dated 31 January 2020 (**Annex 1**), the MPA will extend the precautionary measures to include passengers and crew members with recent travel history to mainland China within the last 14 days, as well as ships whose previous ports of call in the last 14 days included mainland China. This will take effect from 1 February 2020, 2359h.
4. Ships can continue to berth at terminals to carry out operations.

Advice for shipping community

5. MPA advises the shipping community to adhere closely to the health advisory in **Annex 2**. The National Environment Agency's (NEA) Port Health requires all arriving vessels with crew and passengers that have called at ports in mainland China in the past 14 days to submit the Maritime Declaration of Health Form. MPA also urged all crew members on-board to have their temperature taken twice a day. There are also guidelines on how to isolate unwell crew and passengers. For guidance on the

disinfection protocols of common areas and rooms in the vessel, please refer to the NEA's website for the Interim Guidelines for Environmental Cleaning and Disinfection of Areas Exposed to Confirmed Case(s) of Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) in Non-Healthcare Commercial Premises, if needed. If any of their crew or passengers are unwell, they should report the incident to the Marine Safety Control Centre at 6325 2488/2489.

6. Managers/supervisors of terminal operators, agents, contractors and service providers are to take note of the health advisory in **Annex 3** and bring it to the attention of staff who are required to work on board ships.

Advice for Singapore-Registered Vessels

7. Ship owners, managers, operators, agents and masters of Singapore-registered vessels should monitor the health of their crew closely. Masters of such vessels are required to report to their company, MPA and destination port authorities, if their crew are unwell, experience respiratory symptoms (e.g. cough, runny nose, shortness of breath) or feel feverish. They should also make the necessary arrangements to seek medical attention. Refer to the health advisory in **Annex 4**.

Measures by Regional Ferry Operators

8. MPA-licensed regional ferry operators have been conducting outbound temperature screenings to ensure no febrile passengers board the ferries. In addition, the ferry operator will disinfect the ferry after every trip.

Measures by Port Terminal Operators

9. PSA and Jurong Port are also taking precautionary measures for employees returning to Singapore from mainland China. Some of these measures include allowing eligible staff to telecommute and providing frontline staff with paid Leave of Absence where they are unable to work remotely.

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MARITIME AND PORT AUTHORITY OF SINGAPORE

MOH'S PRESS RELEASE ON THE EXTENSION OF PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES TO MINIMISE RISK OF COMMUNITY SPREAD IN SINGAPORE, DATED 31 JANUARY 2020



MINISTRY OF HEALTH
SINGAPORE

Press Release

EXTENSION OF PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES TO MINIMISE RISK OF COMMUNITY SPREAD IN SINGAPORE

Latest developments

On Tuesday, 28 January 2020, the Ministry of Health (MOH) announced additional measures to limit the risk that travellers from Hubei pose to Singapore. These measures have been fully implemented.

2. On 30 January, the Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO) declared China's novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) outbreak a public health emergency of international concern (PHEIC). This declaration sets the stage for a global coordinated effort to enhance preparedness in other regions of the world. WHO believes that it is still possible to interrupt the spread of the virus, provided that countries put in place strong preparedness and response measures. Indeed, there has been increased action worldwide to limit the global spread of the virus by restricting the entry of possible contacts and cases into other countries.

3. While the majority of confirmed cases in China are still linked to Hubei province, MOH understands that there is a growing possibility that more individuals from other parts of China may be infected with the virus. Significantly, the virus has spread to every region of mainland China. The number of reported infections in China has also doubled since 28 January, to over 9,000, and the likelihood of widespread community transmission in other parts of China is now high. As a result, we are likely to see a sharper rise in the local transmission of the virus in Chinese cities beyond the Hubei province in the coming days.

4. In view of the growing possibility of transmission from new travellers arriving from other parts of mainland China, MOH has assessed that it is prudent to take additional pre-emptive measures at this stage. Therefore, the Multi-Ministry Taskforce on the Wuhan Coronavirus has decided to take further steps to limit the potential risk that new travellers arriving from mainland China pose to Singapore.

New visitors with travel history in mainland China or with PRC passports

5. From 1 February 2020, 2359h, all new visitors with recent travel history to mainland China within the last 14 days will not be allowed entry into Singapore, or to transit through Singapore.

6. In the same context, with immediate effect, the Immigration and Checkpoints Authority (ICA) will suspend the issuance of all forms of new visas to those with PRC

passports. We will also suspend Singapore's status as a visa-free transit facility for those with PRC passports.

7. Previously issued short-term and multiple-visit visas for those with PRC passports will also be suspended. During this period of suspension, they will not be allowed entry into Singapore.

Returning residents and long-term pass holders with travel history in mainland China

8. With immediate effect, the following returning groups will be issued an advisory for them to be placed on a 14-day leave of absence from the day of their return from China:

- a) Residents (Singaporean Citizens/ PRs) with recent travel history to mainland China within the last 14 days; and
- b) Long-term pass holders (including Work Passes and Permits, Student Pass, Dependent Pass and Long-term Visit Pass) with recent travel history to mainland China within the last 14 days.

9. Persons who have been put on a leave of absence should stay at home and avoid social contact. They should avoid crowded places and refrain from attending social or public gatherings. They should monitor their health closely, and seek medical attention immediately if they develop any fever or symptoms of acute respiratory illness such as cough or shortness of breath.

10. This is an expansion of the previous measures already implemented for people who interact closely with vulnerable populations in certain sectors — childcare and education, healthcare and eldercare.

11. Previously announced quarantine requirements for returning residents and long-term pass holders with travel history to Hubei, or with PRC passports issued in Hubei, remain in effect.

Remaining cautious and calm

12. There remains no evidence of community spread in Singapore, and these latest measures are aimed at minimising the risk of this occurring. They will also help to stem the global spread of the virus. These latest steps are part of a calibrated series of measures we have taken as the situation of the virus outbreak has evolved. The Taskforce will continue to monitor the situation and take further steps as needed.

13. Meanwhile, Singaporeans can continue to play their part by being socially responsible and practising good personal hygiene habits. They should wash their hands regularly. Those who are unwell should wear a mask and see a doctor immediately. But there is no need to wear a mask if you are well.

14. At the same time, Singaporeans can help each other to cope with the disruptions that these new restrictions may cause. The Government will do its part to support businesses and workers that are affected.

15. We urge Singaporeans to remain calm, and to refer to official sources such as the MOH website or subscribe to the gov.sg WhatsApp, to get the latest updates on the situation.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH
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HEALTH ADVISORY ON CHINA'S NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (2019-nCoV) FOR OPERATORS, OWNERS, MASTERS, PERSONS IN CHARGE AND CREW MEMBERS OF HARBOUR AND PLEASURE CRAFT

Precautions to take to minimise the risk of 2019-nCoV infection

Operators, owners, masters and persons-in-charge and crew members of harbour craft and pleasure craft should take the following precautions:

- a. Avoid contact with live animals including poultry and birds;
- b. Avoid consumption of raw and undercooked meat;
- c. Avoid crowded places and close contact with people who are unwell or showing symptoms of illness;
- d. Observe good personal hygiene;
- e. Practice frequent hand washing with soap;
- f. Wear a mask if you have respiratory symptoms such as a cough or runny nose;
- g. Cover one's mouth with tissue paper when coughing or sneezing, and dispose the soiled tissue paper in the rubbish bin immediately;
- h. Seek medical attention promptly if you are feeling unwell
- i. Minimise unnecessary interactions with the ship's crew

Managing unwell passenger(s)

3 The typical symptoms of the 2019-nCoV are:

- a. Fever;
- b. Runny nose;
- c. Cough; and
- d. Shortness of breath

4 Masters/crew members who notice any passenger who is unwell and displaying the above symptoms should:

- a. Notify the operators, owners, or persons-in-charge who should then immediately report this to the Marine Safety Control Centre (Tel: +65 6325-2488/2489) and arrange for appropriate medical assistance.
- b. Provide a surgical mask to the passenger who is unwell.
- c. Wear a surgical mask when attending to the passenger who is unwell.

- d. Surgical masks should be changed regularly, and if they are soiled or wet.
- e. If a surgical mask is not available, the passenger should cover his/ her mouth and nose with tissues when coughing.
- f. All masks, napkins, tissues, utensils and trays used by the passenger who is unwell should be disposed in leak-resistant plastic bags.

Monitor your health

5 Crew members should be aware of the symptoms of 2019-nCoV. Any crew member who develops such symptoms in Singapore within 14 days of coming into contact with a passenger who is unwell should seek medical attention immediately. The crew member should wear a mask and call the clinic ahead of his/her visit.

HEALTH ADVISORY ON CHINA'S NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (2019-nCoV) FOR SHORE PERSONNEL VISITING SHIPS ALONGSIDE THE WHARVES AND AT THE ANCHORAGES

Managers/supervisors of terminal operators, agents, contractors and service providers are to take note of the following health advisory and bring it to the attention of shore personnel who are required to work on board ships.

Precautions to take to minimise the risk of infection

6 Shore personnel refer to any persons, other than the ship's crew, who are required to board ships alongside wharves or at the anchorages to deliver services requested by ships. They include staff of terminal operators, agents, contractors and service providers.

7 To minimise the risk of 2019-nCoV infection, all personnel should take the following precautions:

- a. Avoid contact with live animals including poultry and birds;
- b. Avoid consumption of raw and undercooked meat;
- c. Avoid crowded places and close contact with people who are unwell or showing symptoms of illness;
- d. Observe good personal hygiene;
- e. Practise frequent hand washing with soap;
- f. Wear a mask if you have respiratory symptoms such as a cough or runny nose;
- g. Cover one's mouth with tissue paper when coughing or sneezing, and dispose the soiled tissue paper in the rubbish bin immediately;
- h. Seek medical attention promptly if you are feeling unwell
- i. Minimise unnecessary interactions with the ship's crew

8 Managers/supervisors should closely monitor the health of shore personnel who are required to work on board ships. Shore personnel exhibiting symptoms of 2019-nCoV, which include fever, runny nose, sore throat, cough, and shortness of breath, should not be sent on board ships. Medical attention should be sought immediately.

9 Before boarding any ship, shore personnel should check with the ship master or duty officer if there are any procedures and/or guidelines to be observed, and adhere to them when on board the ship.

HEALTH ADVISORY ON CHINA'S NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (2019-nCoV) FOR SHIPOWNERS, SHIP MANAGERS, AGENTS AND MASTERS OF SINGAPORE REGISTERED SHIPS

The Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA) urges operators of Singapore Registered Ships (SRS) to take precautionary measures, as well as to remain vigilant and adopt good hygiene practices at all times.

10 Shipowners, ship managers, agents and masters of SRS are to closely monitor the health of their crew on board. If they develop any of the symptoms of the 2019-nCoV, they should be given immediate medical attention. The typical symptoms of the 2019-nCoV are:

- a. Fever;
- b. Runny nose;
- c. Cough; and
- d. Shortness of breath

11 Ship crew who feel unwell, experience respiratory symptoms (e.g. cough, shortness of breath) or feel feverish, should inform the ship master immediately. The ship master should then inform the company, destination port authority and ship agent to make the necessary arrangements to seek medical attention. Shipowners and masters are to report all occurrences to MPA using the report form found in MPA Shipping Circular No. 4 of 2013.

12 For further information on the 2019-nCoV, please visit the Ministry of Health website at www.moh.gov.sg

13 Any queries regarding this Annex should be directed to MPA Shipping (Email: shipping@mpa.gov.sg; Tel: +65 6375 6251).