

PRESS RELEASE

9 April 2020

North P&I Club Supports New Digital COVID-19 Tool from International Group

A new COVID-19 Tracking Tool developed by global marine insurer North has been made available as a shared resource to the International Group of P&I Clubs.

The online tool, first released by North in February, was formally launched via the IG website this week. It details the extent of COVID-19 and the numerous response measures that have been introduced in a single digital dashboard, including country and port specific advice for shipowners, charterers, operators and others.

The interactive tool draws on information provided by IG club correspondents worldwide, as well as the International Maritime Organization and World Health Organization. Data also comes from Wilhelmsen Ship Management and ship agency company GAC, while the dashboard includes a continuously updated map of the pandemic's spread from John Hopkins University.

"Delivering up-to-date information from well-respected international sources, combined with the insights from the P&I club members of the IG, this new tool will help the maritime community better understand and track the extent of COVID-19 worldwide," said North Chief Executive Paul Jennings. "This can help protect businesses and most importantly safeguard the lives of the seafarers whom we depend upon daily to keep our local communities supplied with essential goods."

In freely sharing its proprietary intellectual property and information, North contributed to inter-club cooperation at a critical time and delivered on the IG's 'collectively stronger' approach, said Jennings, who is also International Group Chairman. Live updates on the number of confirmed cases of the virus, countries at risk and what to look out for would put stakeholders in a better position to identify commercial risks and physical threats to shipping, he added.

"I would like to thank those P&I clubs and their teams that have led and supported this initiative, which is fully in tune with the IG's objectives of sharing data and loss prevention initiatives to improve safety at sea and within the maritime industry."

To date, enquiries made to North related to COVID-19 have focused on the way port precautions and border measures were hindering crew repatriations, and problems in delivering general medical care. Jennings said other early issues to emerge included repair contracts for vessels at shipyards and when force majeure provisions might apply, and bespoke COVID-19 clauses into charter parties. For the moment, the cargo claims situation was "masked", he said.

END

Images:

Paul Jennings, CEO, North P&I Club

Tracking tool dashboard

About North P&I Club:

North P&I Club is a leading global marine insurer providing P&I, FD&D, war risks and ancillary insurance to over 230 million GT of owned and chartered tonnage. Through its guaranteed subsidiary Sunderland Marine, North is also a leading insurer of fishing vessels, small craft, aquaculture risks and owners' fixed premium P&I cover. The Standard and Poor's 'A' rated Club is based in Newcastle upon Tyne, UK with regional offices and subsidiaries in China (Hong Kong and Shanghai), Greece, Ireland, Japan, Singapore, USA and Sunderland Marine offices worldwide. North is a leading member of the International Group of P&I Clubs (IG), with over 12% of the IG's owned tonnage. The 13 IG clubs provide liability cover for approximately 90% of the world's ocean-going tonnage and, as a member of the IG, North protects and promotes the interests of the international shipping industry. For further information, visit: www.nepia.com

For more information:

Kim Rogerson
Senior Executive (Communications)
North P&I Club
+44 191 232 5221
kim.rogerson@nepia.com

Debbi Bonner
Managing Director
JLA Media
+31 652 630122
debbi.bonner@j-l-a.com