

COVID-19 (Coronavirus)

COVID-19 (Coronavirus) – Key Facts for Seafarers

The outbreak of Coronavirus disease (COVID-19), which causes respiratory illness, was first detected in December 2019 in central China. The number of cases outside China now exceeds those within, with very few countries in the world unaffected by this pandemic. It is vital that everyone understands how to prevent infection and knows what to do in the event of infection or suspected infection.

Have an action plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Develop an action plan that includes infection control procedures such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● how to request medical assistance ● onboard isolation / quarantine arrangements and the disposal or containment of contaminated materials ● separate toilet and bathing facilities for infected persons ● sanitisation of affected contact surfaces and areas
Practice good hygiene	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Wash hands regularly with soap and hot clean water for at least 20 seconds – use alcohol hand gel if soap and water is not readily available. ● Cover mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing – then throw tissue into a closed bin after use and wash your hands.
Keep your guard up	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Maintain effective ship and gangway security and ensure unauthorised personnel do not board the vessel. ● If someone trying to board the vessel exhibits symptoms – refuse access and report it. ● Restrict access into the ship’s accommodation – keeps doors locked. ● Have alcohol hand gel ready for use upon entry onto the ship.
Keep your distance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Avoid close contact with all visitors, such as stevedores, port officials, agents, pilots and bunkering personnel. No handshakes! ● Try to maintain a safe distance - hold your conversations and meetings with visitors on the open deck or open bridge wings. ● If going ashore, avoid crowded areas and maintain your distance.
Know the symptoms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A high temperature, a new continuous cough, shortness of breath and breathing difficulties. ● Avoid contact with anyone displaying symptoms of coronavirus. ● If a crewmember is displaying symptoms, isolate them immediately and seek medical attention. Check for any underlying health issues and their current medication.
Stay informed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Get the latest advice on safety ashore from the port agent – there may be restrictions on shore leave and crew changes. ● Visit North’s dedicated COVID-19 website area at www.nepia.com/topics/covid-19-coronavirus/ for more information.

The purpose of this publication is to provide information which is additional to that available to the maritime industry from regulatory, advisory, and consultative organisations. Whilst care is taken to ensure the accuracy of any information made available (whether orally or in writing and whether in the nature of guidance, advice, or direction) no warranty of accuracy is given and users of the information contained herein are expected to satisfy themselves that it is relevant and suitable for the purposes to which it is applied or intended to be applied. No responsibility is accepted by North or by any person, firm, corporation or organisation who or which has been in any way concerned with the furnishing of data, the development, compilation or publication thereof, for the accuracy of any information or advice given herein or for any omission herefrom, or for any consequences whatsoever resulting directly or indirectly from, reliance upon or adoption of guidance contained herein.