

Quarantined Vessel Crew Security Plan

Overview

In the event of a quarantine order, a vessel may be required to submit a crew security plan for approval by the Captain of the Port (COTP) prior to allowing cargo operations. This security plan addresses internal and external security if a suspected communicable disease may be present aboard AND the Center for Disease Control (CDC) has limited crew movement or issued a quarantine order. Additional guidance may be obtained in the vessel guidance for the COVIDm19 Pandemic. The Crew Security Plan can be implemented at anchor, at a loading dock, an unloading dock or other facility.

Definitions

Ill individual: Person experiencing symptoms associated with a communicable disease, such as COVID-19.

Infected individual: Person who has tested positive for the communicable disease.

Exposed individual: Person who was in contact with an ill or infected individual.

Crewmember: Person serving aboard a vessel with an infected or ill individual but shows no signs of the illness and was not in contact with an infected or ill individual

General

Once notification requirements have been made in accordance with Marine Safety Information Bulletin (MSIB) 06/20, the vessel will proceed as directed by the COTP. If not directed to an anchorage or designated segregation dock, the vessel may continue to its planned loading or unloading dock. The vessel should confirm that dock personnel are aware of the potential problem. The U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) may have also notified the dock. Dock personnel should not be allowed aboard the vessel. Communications with dock representatives should be by radio or telephone.

Ill individuals will be restricted to their quarters until cleared by CDC, local healthcare officials or USCG personnel for transportation to a healthcare facility or other designated quarantine facility.

Infected individuals, once confirmed by a positive test, should also be restricted to their quarters until they can be transported to a healthcare facility or approved location (by the CDC). They should remain there for 2-14 days or until cleared by a health professional.

Exposed individuals should be tested for the disease. If testing is unavailable, it should be assumed that they are infected. Exposed individuals may remain aboard, pending test results; however, they should limit contact with others, maintaining social distance and personal hygiene. Exposed individuals may also be allowed, by CDC, to leave the vessel for other quarantine location.

Crewmembers who were not exposed, if possible, should still be tested for the disease. Pending the test results, they may continue with their normal duties. Heightened personal hygiene should continue to be practiced as outlined in the vessel's COVID-19 guideline and MSIB 02-20 (change 3 or later version).

Anchored

While at anchor, the normal navigation anchor watch should be maintained and the VHF-FM radio should be monitored in addition to the ship's cell phone. All accommodation and boarding ladders should be in the up position. They should only be lowered to accommodate the boarding of government officials, health care workers or to aid in the evacuation of the ill.

Moored

When moored to a pier, boarding and accommodation ladders should be kept in the up position. They may be lowered for authorized purposes and must be monitored if in the down position. Equipment and supplies should be loaded via the grocery hoist. Gloves and other appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) should be worn when handling ship stores, handling lines, boarding or departing the vessel. When shifting lines at the dock, deckhands should do their best to maintain social distancing. Someone from the deck should observe line handlers to ensure dock personnel maintain social distance from crewmembers.

Cargo Operations

If the COTP requires approval of this crew security plan. It should be submitted as soon as possible. Once approved by the COTP, vessel loading or unloading operations may take place. During cargo operations, no additional security requirements are necessary. Crewmembers should continue to exercise social distancing and personally hygiene precautions.

Deep Cleaning

Quarters of infected or ill individuals should be deep cleaned by a cleaning contractor. If one is not available, deep cleaning may be done by ships crew, if done in accordance with CDC guidelines.