



MARITIME AND PORT AUTHORITY OF SINGAPORE

PORT MARINE CIRCULAR
NO. 17 OF 2020

23 Mar 2020

Harbour Craft Community
Pleasure Craft Community
Shipping Community

EXTENSION OF PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES TO MINIMISE RISK OF COMMUNITY SPREAD OF THE CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19) 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. Additional precautionary measures have been announced by the Singapore Ministry of Health (MOH), in view of the heightened risk of imported COVID-19 cases (MOH press release dated 22 March 2020 **ANNEX A**).¹ MOH has announced that from 23 March 2020, 2359 hours, all short-term visitors, from anywhere in the world, will not be allowed to enter or transit through Singapore. MPA will apply these additional precautionary measures to all vessels calling at the Port of Singapore.
3. The Port of Singapore remains open for cargo operations and marine services, including shipyard repairs.

¹ Please check MOH's website (<https://www.moh.gov.sg/covid-19>) for the latest measures.

Border Restrictions

4. With the application of the additional precautionary measures, crew and passengers on short-term visits will not be allowed to disembark in Singapore for the time being. Crew change in Singapore is also disallowed for the time being.
5. Singapore has ceased port calls for all cruise vessels since 13 March 2020.

Precautionary testing for symptomatic Singapore Residents and Long Term Pass Holders at regional ferry terminals

6. All Singapore Residents and Long Term Pass Holders entering Singapore who exhibit fever (i.e. temperature above 37.5 degree Celsius) and/or other symptoms of respiratory illness may be required to undergo a COVID-19 swab test at the regional ferry terminals, regardless of travel history. They will be issued a 14-day Stay Home Notice upon arrival.

Advice for shipping community

7. The National Environment Agency's (NEA) Port Health requires all vessels arriving at Singapore to submit the Maritime Declaration of Health Form (refer to Port Marine Circular No. 16 of 2020).

8. MPA also urges all crew members onboard to have their temperature taken twice daily. 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 COVID-19 in Non-Healthcare Premises, and the Interim Guidelines for Environmental Cleaning and Disinfection of Premises with Transient Exposure to Confirmed Case(s) of COVID-19, 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.

9. MPA has issued health advisories for operators, owners, masters and persons in-charge and crew of harbor and pleasure craft, and for managers/supervisors of terminal operators, agents, contractors and service providers. Please refer to **ANNEX B** and **ANNEX C** respectively. MPA reminds these persons to take note of the health advisories and bring them to the attention of staff who work on board ships.

Advice for Singapore-Registered Vessels

10. Ship owners, managers, operators, agents and masters of Singapore-registered vessels should monitor the health of their crew closely. Masters of Singapore-registered 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 D**.

Industry-led Initiatives

11. Temperature Screening at Ferry Terminals. Since 08 February 2020, 2359hrs, ferry terminal operators have implemented centralised outbound temperature screening for departing passengers. This is an additional precautionary measure by the terminal operators to ensure the health and safety of all passengers and crew.

12. Cleaning and Disinfection. Ferry operators have also stepped up their cleaning and disinfection regime on board the ferries, especially in common or public areas, to help prevent the widespread transmission of COVID-19.

Measures by Port Terminal Operators

13. PSA and Jurong Port are also taking precautionary measures for employees returning to Singapore. 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.

This circular supersedes Port Marine Circular No. 15 of 2020 on 23 March 2020, 2359hrs.

CAPT KEVIN WONG
PORT MASTER
MARITIME AND PORT AUTHORITY OF SINGAPORE

MOH'S PRESS RELEASE ON THE ADDITIONAL PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES TO PREVENT FURTHER IMPORTATION AND SPREAD OF COVID-19 CASES, DATED 22 MARCH 2020



MINISTRY OF HEALTH
SINGAPORE

Press Release

In view of the heightened risk of importation of COVID-19 cases into Singapore, all short-term visitors will now not be allowed to enter or transit through Singapore. This is also to conserve resources so we can focus on Singaporeans.

2. Previously, except for a handful of countries, short-term visitors from elsewhere were allowed to come into Singapore, save they were issued a 14-day Stay-Home Notice (SHN) upon arrival. This meant, however, that resources were being expended to serve and enforce SHNs on them, and if they fell ill, to provide them with medical treatment. Yesterday, there were still 533 short-term visitors arriving in Singapore.

3. There has been a further sharp increase in cases globally and widening spread. To date, there are more than 260,000 COVID-19 cases across 185 countries, and around 11,200 deaths. In Singapore, almost 80 percent of our new COVID-19 cases over the past² three days were imported, most of them Singapore residents and Long Term Pass holders returning home from abroad. These imported cases had travel histories to 22 different countries. No entry or transit through Singapore for all short-term visitors, with limited entry for work pass holders

4. From 23 March 2020, 2359 hours, all short-term visitors (from anywhere in the world) will not be allowed to enter or transit through Singapore. Furthermore the Ministry of Manpower will only allow the entry/ return of work pass holders³, including their dependents, for those providing essential services, such as in healthcare and transport.

5. As previously announced, all Singapore Citizens, Permanent Residents and Long Term Pass holders⁴ returning to Singapore will be issued a 14-day SHN⁵. Persons under SHN must remain in their place of residence at all times.

6. The Singapore-Malaysia Special Working Committee has agreed that Malaysians with Singapore work permits will continue to be able to work in Singapore during this period, with appropriate accommodation arrangements. The transport of all types of goods between Malaysia and Singapore will also be facilitated. Discussions in the Committee are ongoing.

7. Singapore's border control measures in relation to COVID-19 are summarised in the Annex.

8. As Singapore's measures will be adjusted according to the evolving global situation, Singaporeans should check the Ministry of Health's website (<https://www.moh.gov.sg/covid-19>) for the latest measures.

² As of 21 March, 12pm.

³ Currently, all work pass holders and their dependents planning to enter/return to Singapore from any country are required to obtain MOM's approval before they can commence their journey.

⁴ Long Term Pass holders include work passes, Student's Pass, Dependant's Pass, and Long-term Visit Pass.

⁵ The SHN will not apply to Singapore Citizens, Permanent Residents and Long Term Pass holders transiting in Singapore without leaving the transit area.

HEALTH ADVISORY ON CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19) FOR OPERATORS, OWNERS, MASTERS, PERSONS IN CHARGE AND CREW MEMBERS OF HARBOUR AND PLEASURE CRAFT

Precautions to take to minimise the risk of COVID-19 infection

1. 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)

2. The typical symptoms of the COVID-19 are:

- a. Fever (temperature above 37.5 degree Celsius);
- b. Runny nose;
- c. Cough; and
- d. Shortness of breath

3. 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

4. Crew members should be aware of the symptoms of COVID-19. 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 CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19) FOR SHORE PERSONNEL VISITING SHIPS ALONGSIDE THE WHARVES AND AT THE ANCHORAGES

1. 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

2. 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.

3. To minimise the risk of COVID-19 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; and
- i. Minimise unnecessary interactions with the ship's crew

4. Managers/supervisors should closely monitor the health of shore personnel who are required to work on board ships. Shore personnel exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19, 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.

5. 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 CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19) FOR SHIPOWNERS, SHIP MANAGERS, AGENTS AND MASTERS OF SINGAPORE REGISTERED SHIPS

1. 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.
2. 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 COVID-19, they should be given immediate medical attention. The typical symptoms of the COVID-19 are:
 - a. Fever (temperature above 37.5 degree Celsius);
 - b. Runny nose;
 - c. Cough; and
 - d. Shortness of breath
3. 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.
4. For further information on the COVID-19, please visit the Ministry of Health website at www.moh.gov.sg
5. Any queries regarding this Annex should be directed to MPA Shipping (Email: shipping@mpa.gov.sg; Tel: +65 6375 6251).