GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE
(DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF HEALTH SERVICES)
PORT HEALTH ORGANISATION, KANDLA
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No.Q-1/PHO-K/2019-nCoV/2020/ 23 . Dated: 27.01.2020.

ADVISORY ON 2019 NOVEL CORONA VIRUS-REG.

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare have alerted about 2019 novel corona virus infection (2019-nCoV) which occurred in Wuhan City in China and now spreading to many provinces in China and some imported cases in other neighboring countries also. The affected patients have reported to have symptoms of Acute respiratory illness with history of fever and cough suggestive of bilateral pneumonia requiring admission to hospital within 14 days of contact. Few of them have developed severe acute respiratory illness (SARI).

Since Kandla Port and Other Minor Ports of Gujarat receives many ships, crews and passengers from China, Hong Kong and Singapore etc.The Ministry of Health and Family has asked all the Point of Entries i.e. Airports and Ports to be on alert for a possible importation into India of 2019- nCoV

The following action plan is planned for different stakeholders in the Ports: -

PORT AUTHORITY: -

PILOTS: - The pilots can safely bring these ships to berth by following this procedure. They can board the vessel with the specific PHO instructions (if any given). They will alight to the bridge from the side steps and not through the Accommodation to the Bridge. The doors of the Bridge will be Kept open. The new crew who has joined will not assist the Pilot for the navigation or they will all have to wear a face mask and be 6 feet away from Pilot and other crew members. All Pilots must be given the masks, hand sanitizer, disposable unsterile gloves. All PPE items to be collected in a small bag for safe disposal to the Medical Department.

MEDICAL DEPARTMENT: - To keep the Ambulance and Team with PPE Kit ready for transport of any sick crew from ships to the designated Hospital. To circulate their contact details to us and the Shipping Agents Association.

SHIPPING AGENTS: - All the ships will be screened before arrival by email on the newly embarked crew members from Chinese Ports, or any Chinese Nationals joining the ship from any ports in the world or all crew of ships calling the ports in disease occurring countries.

The following documents to be given by email:-

a. Maritime Declaration of Health with Attached Schedule showing the diseases details of the persons on board if any.
b. Port of call list with departure dates.
c. The Crew List must be given with port and date of joining.
d. Medical Log copy for the last 1 month.
e. Any shore medical visit or Radio Medical Advice or any Medical evacuation or sign off done in last 1 month.
f. Ship Sanitation Exemption Certificate/ Medicine Chest Certificate.

The ships if needed any screening on berthing will be advised. Berthing clearance will be given for all other ships for port operations. The Sick crew who are suspected to be 2019-nCoV will be transferred to the Designated Referral Hospital only.

IMMIGRATION:-

1. All sick crew from Ports are to be intimated to us for clearance for shore treatment as per earlier letter sent in this regard.
2. All permissions to non-essential visitors to the ships to be avoided.
3. The details of all International visitors for Official trade purposes are to be shared by the Shipping Agent to PHO for clearance by email or mobile.

CUSTOMS:-

1. The ship which needs PHO health screening on berthing will be advised to the shipping agent.
2. The ships which are cleared for berthing will be advised for routine process of boarding and cargo operations.
3. At minor Ports the Customs to clear the vessels for berthing based on the email health clearance issued by PHO, Kandla.

SHIP MASTER:-

1. The Ship Master are to follow the required documents as per the instructions and submit by email minimum 2-3 days before arrival.
2. All ships calling from Chinese Ports are to give temperature report by email for 2 days before arrival or as instructed by email by PHO.Kandla.
3. All newly joined crew are to be monitored on board for 14 days.
4. If they develop any signs & symptoms of 2019-nCoV virus they are to be isolated on board and contact the RMA or nearest Port Health Authority.
5. The ship must have stocks of 3 layered surgical masks 30 per crew, hand wash liquid or hand soap 5 per crew, Hand Drying Paper roll for all common wash basins and toilets, 10 PPE kit for Infectious diseases, Bio Hazard Bags 25 pcs for safe disposal of masks, PPE kits.
6. To follow the Respiratory and Hand Hygiene. If any sick persons are from shore all the crew are to advised to maintain 6 feet gap. If they are coughing, they may be given a mask during their work on board and restrict their entry into the ship.
7. All shore visitors are to be entertained at the meeting room only.
8. To avoid non-essential visitors to the ship.
9. To keep record of all the international visitors, owners at Port for survey, audit, repairs or any other activities etc. as per the IHR-2005 2019-nCoV form.

MINOR PORTS: - The pre-arrival screening of the vessels at all Minor Ports of Gujarat will be followed up by email and assessed on their health status for berthing clearance or any special instructions for screening will be given for the ships by PHO Kandla. The local health authority will coordinate with PHO Kandla on instructions.

STEVEDORES: - All the stevedores to ensure the sick employees are not allowed to board the vessel and keep track of all of them. They have to follow the Respiratory and Hand Hygiene. In case, any of them develop any symptoms of the nCoV virus disease they have to report to the Port Health Officer or to the Local Health Authority in Minor Ports.

It's not required to wear any masks as a routine by anyone on board. It's preferable not to allow employees with respiratory illness or fever to go for ship work. If it's essential they have to wear mask and follow the Respiratory and Hand Hygiene and disembark as early as possible.

As it's an evolving disease and the present guidelines will be updated accordingly and the same will be communicated by email. Keep in touch for any assistance.

Yours faithfully,

S.K.Prajapati

(Dr.S.K. Prajapati)
Port Health Officer,Kandla

Port Health Orgn. Kandla ★ Govt. of India ★

Copy to :- All Concerned