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RECOMMENDATION OF STANDARD OPERATION PROCEDURES IN THE PROTECTION AGAINST COVID-19 FOR MARITIME PILOTS IN MALAYSIA

In the adoption of any part or full part of this SOP, the following definition construes to the guidelines by the *Ministry of Health Malaysia* applies.

PUI of Covid-19 (Person under Investigation of Covid-19)

Acute respiratory infection (sudden onset of respiratory infection with at least one of: shortness of breath, cough or sore throat) with or without fever **AND**

Travelled to / resided in foreign country within 14 days before the onset of illness **OR**

Close Contact in 14 days before illness onset with confirmed case of Covid-19 **OR**

Attended an event associated with known Covid-19 outbreak

Confirmed Case of Covid-19 (Positive)

A person with laboratory information of infection with the Covid-19

Quarantine Status Ships defined as a ship that sailed from a port of an affected country as defined by Ministry of Health Malaysia.

Close Contact defined as:

- Health Care associated exposure without appropriate PPE (including providing direct care for Covid-19 patients, working with health care workers infected with Covid-19, visiting patients or staying in the same close environment of a Covid-19 patient);
- Working together in close proximity or sharing the same classroom environment with a Covid-19 patient
- Travelling together with a Covid-19 patient in any kind conveyance
- Living in the same household as a Covid-19 patient

Full PPE denotes a set of Personal Protective Equipment comprising of goggle or face shield, facemask, medical glove, medical gown and complemented with sanitizer.



- 1.) Compulsory **Full PPE** to be donned and equipped by assigning pilot on board any ships with case of **Covid-19 Positive** or **Suspected Covid-19**, including any other ships with high potential risk, including any ships that conducted crew change at countries with critical infection statistic, war ships and cruise ship that has a complement of crew and / or passenger of **more than 100 persons** on board.

Any ship reported to have *Covid-19 Positive* or *Suspected Covid-19*, the assigned pilot on the subject ships who equipped himself with Full PPE, is **NOT REQUIRED** to undergo the compulsory quarantine at home for 14 days, but required to **conduct self-monitoring at home**. In addition, the pilot **must exercise physical distancing** and **minimum close contact** with crew members.

(Based on clarification from Port Health, Ministry of Health, Malaysia dated 13th August 2020)

In the case of pilots attending ships in this paragraph, it is advisable for the pilot to minimize constant exposure to any possibility of infection by observing the followings:

- a) Identify the person reported to be infected with Covid-19 or suspected to have infected with Covid-19 to ascertain risk level via communication with ship's agent.
 - b) Avoid pathways inside the ship's accommodation but use the stairways on the exterior of the accommodation.
 - c) The pilot to position himself on the far edge of the navigation bridge or at the bridge wings and NOT be seated in the centre of the navigation console. Diligent observation and operation of the navigational and communication equipment at frequent interval so as not to endanger the ship under pilotage.
 - d) Alternatively, execute the option to pilot the subject ship remotely with constant communication during channelling and only embark on board when the ship is close and safe to the terminal for uninterrupted and safe berthing processes base on ship LOA and draft, when deemed appropriate.
- 2.) Request a copy of **Maritime Declaration of Health** and **Borang Permohonan Status Kapal** from the ship's agent. These documents will provide ample information in assessing the risk of each ship requested for pilot.
(Every ship that is arriving from a foreign port, the representing ship's agent must complete and submit the Borang Permohonan Status Kapal to the Port Health. This document must be endorsed and signed by the Port Health before the ship is allowed in the port limits.)
 - 3.) Minimum *medical glove, facemask, goggle and sanitizer* to be donned and equipped by assigning pilot on board any **Quarantine** and **Non-Quarantine** status ships at all times.



- 4.) During pilotage face mask must be donned by assigning pilot and all ship's bridge team members so as it covers the mouth and the nose completely. Any non-compliant must be addressed to the Master and reported to the Port Health Authority if Master defied.
- 5.) If pilots needed to touch any unprotected parts of his body i.e. face, nose or eyes, it is essentially to *sanitise fingers and hands* before doing so, to avoid being contaminated by potential virus. Pilots are advised not to touch any unprotected parts of his body when both hands have the medical glove on. The medical glove has to be taken off the hands follow with sanitization on the hands and fingers before he should do so. This is to avoid any potential risk of transfer of any associated Covid-19 particles to the unprotected body parts.
- 6.) **Physical Distancing** Pilots to keep a safe distance of at least **1 metre away** from any other crew members, minimize contact with crew on board and *no hand shake* are advisable.
- 7.) During pilotage at the navigational bridge, request the Master or crew to allow one of the bridge doors to be open partially (as far as practicable) and not completely close for safer aeration within the navigational bridge space. Pilot is advised to avoid position oneself where the air conditioning system flow directly on to body parts, especially the face.
- 8.) Pilots to conduct **self-isolation** and **avoid close-contact** with piers in the Pilot Office and family members should the subject pilot believed himself is exposed to risky health safety environment on board a ship. If in doubt, please communicate with Port Health for advice immediately.
- 9.) Pilots must conduct self-monitoring of health status ensures body temperature does not exceed **37.5 degrees Celsius** or inform pilot office for doctor consultation immediately. As far as practicable avoid crowded public places and facemask must be put on.
- 10.) **Pilot Boat** The pilot including the crew of the pilot boat must wear face mask during repatriation of pilot to and from a ship. Pilot to sanitize his hands before boarding a ship and after disembarked from a ship.
- 11.) Observe strict hygiene at the office and at home.
 - *At The Office* – Full body wash with *antiseptic soap* after completion of each ship OR at least wash your hands and face with antiseptic soap.
 - *At Home* - Full body wash with *antiseptic soap* before mingling with family members.
- 12.) Pilots are recommended to cooperate with ship's master to observe any adopted Covid-19 preventive measures on board ship.
- 13.) All used PPE items must be disposed at designated **Bio-Hazard** storage bin.



14.) Consideration to invoke the use of **Letter of Indemnity** (*Protection for Pilots against Covid-19*) to protect any assigning pilots for the following type of ships:

- i. Warships
- ii. Cruise ships
- iii. Any other type of ships which one or more of her crew AND/OR passengers was classified as PUI who is Covid-19 Positive; or suspected to have been infected by Covid-19; as notified by the Health Authority.
- iv. Any ship as in 14.iii) deemed appropriate that obtained Health Clearance from the Health Authority.

(Letter of Indemnity can be requested via email to secretariat@mpmhq.org.my)

These measures and care for the maritime pilots' health safety should not be limited to the above outlined recommendation. Please take all necessary measures and protection deemed fit to avoid infection as the job of maritime pilots are undoubtedly subjected to constant exposure of infection risk.

The above recommendation does not implicit in any ways or means to discriminate any parties whatsoever especially the ship's crew members, ship management / operator companies, ship's agents, port and terminal operators, pilot boat crew members including any other parties thereof; but merely represent as a precaution recommendation necessarily to combat and contain the Covid-19 infection in supporting the Ministry of Health, Malaysia.

Please protect **YOUR TEAM, YOURSELF** and your **FAMILY MEMBERS** including **ANY OTHER PERSONS** surrounding us during this pandemic time.

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