

February 28, 2020

Re: BCMEA COVID-19 Update #4

The British Columbia Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC) health officials have confirmed seven cases (with one full recovery) of COVID-19 in British Columbia as of February 25, 2020. The risk to British Columbians and Canadians continues to be low.

At this point, there are no impacts to operations on the waterfront.

The BC Ministry of Health issued the attached letter stating that “Foreign Flagged Vessels are obligated to report illness in crew or passengers to Canadian authorities using the Pre-Arrival Inspection Report under the Marine Transport Security Regulations 96 and 24 hours out from port.”

According to Dr Bonnie Henry, Provincial Health Officer, “the most important measures everyone can take *today* is to proactively prevent the transmission of respiratory illnesses, including COVID-19. This includes cleaning your hands regularly with soap and water or alcohol-based hand rub, avoiding touching your face, coughing or sneezing into your elbow sleeve and disposing of tissues appropriately. It is also very important to stay home and away from others if you or your family are sick.” Further, Dr Henry states, “I am confident the process in place is working to ensure we can detect anyone at risk of being ill with COVID-19 at this time.” Please see the attached letter for more information.

The World Health Organization (WHO) recommends health and safety measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in the workplace. Some measures include wiping surfaces regularly with disinfectant, increasing the number of hand sanitizing stations in prominent places around the workplace, displaying posters promoting handwashing and advising employees to consult national travel advice before going on business trips. See attached for more recommendations.

Transport Canada also circulated the attached Marine Security Notification providing information and guidance to the Canadian marine industry on protocols to safeguard the health and safety of those working in Canada’s marine sector. Please see attached document for further information (circulated with January 29, 2020 update).

The BCCDC is advising anyone concerned that may have been exposed to or is experiencing symptoms of COVID-19, to contact their primary care provider, local public health office or call 8-1-1.

The BCMEA is monitoring the latest developments and will send updates as they become available. For more on facts on the virus, please visit the BCCDC website for [current information](#).

If you have any follow up or additional questions regarding workforce operations, please do not hesitate to contact John Beckett, VP, Operations (jbeckett@bcmea.com) for further details.

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