

USMX and ILA Leaders Direct Their Safety Committee To Advise Members On Protections Against Coronavirus

NORTH BERGEN, NJ – (March 10, 2020) At the direction of David F. Adam, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, United States Maritime Alliance, Ltd., and Harold J. Daggett, International President, International Longshoremen’s Association, AFL-CIO, the ILA-USMX Joint Safety Committee issued new safety guidelines to protect ILA members and employers against potential risks posed by Coronavirus-infected crewmembers/passengers that may be present in the shipboard workplace.

“We want to make sure everyone working in our industry – from ILA members to employers – are protected against exposure to Coronavirus disease (COVID-19)” said Mr. Adam and Mr. Daggett in a joint statement. “We have directed our ILA-USMX Joint Safety Committee to monitor the situation daily and to devise pro-active policies to keep everyone safe.

U.S. Coastguard and CDC protocols direct the master of a ship destined for a U.S. port to report immediately to the quarantine station at or nearest the port at which the ship will arrive, to report the occurrence, on board, of any death or any ill person among passengers or crew (including those who have disembarked or have been removed) during the 15-day period preceding the date of the ship’s expected arrival or during the period since departure from a U.S. port (whichever period of time is shorter.)

The ILA-USMX Joint Safety Committee is making two recommendations:

1. That ILA workers and members of management avoid close contact (closer than six feet) with any crew members or passengers who appear to be ill (coughing, sneezing, etc.); and
2. That those ILA and management workers obliged to serve aboard passenger vessels be provided with properly fitted NIOSH-approved filtering masks and impermeable gloves.

“The ILA and USMX encourage all our members to continue to visit the websites of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>) and the World Health Organization (<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>)

The United States Maritime Alliance, Ltd. (USMX) represents employers of the East and Gulf Coast longshore industry. Membership consists of Container Carriers, including the largest carriers and carrier alliances worldwide, all major Marine Terminal Operators, and Port Associations representing each port on the East and Gulf Coasts. USMX's members are responsible for the transportation and handling of cargo shipped to and from the United States.

The International Longshoremen's Association, AFL-CIO represents 65,000-members working at Atlantic and Gulf Coasts from Maine to Texas; U.S. and Canadian Great Lakes ports; Eastern Canadian Maritime Provinces; major U.S. Rivers and Puerto Rico.

(A copy of the ILA-USMX Joint Safety Committee report is included in this release).

For additional information, contact Jim McNamara at ILA 212-425-1200, ext. 307 jmcnamara@ilaunion.org or Beth Monica at USMX 732-404-2965 bmonica@usmx.com



ILA-USMX JOINT SAFETY COMMITTEE

OSH ALERT 2020-05 [10 March 2020]

More on the Novel Coronavirus

The ILA~USMX Joint Safety Committee (JSC) continues to receive inquiries regarding the manner in which industry labor and management constituents may become aware of any potential risks posed by Coronavirus-infected crewmembers/passengers that may be present within the shipboard workplace.

As a threshold matter, all of us should understand that ***in the event of any crew member/passenger death or illness***, U.S. law and regulation require ship Masters to provide advance notice to the relevant U.S. Centers for Disease Control & Prevention quarantine station, Penalties for failing to report are sizable. The regulation appears in this form:

§ 71.21 Report of death or illness.

(a) The master of a ship destined for a U.S. port shall report immediately to the quarantine station at or nearest the port at which the ship will arrive, the occurrence, on board, of any death or any ill person among passengers or crew (including those who have disembarked or have been removed) during the 15-day period preceding the date of expected arrival or during the period since departure from a U.S. port (whichever period of time is shorter).

Notwithstanding; out of an abundance of caution, the JSC recommends the following:

- 1).** That ILA workers and members of management avoid close contact (closer than 6 feet) with any crewmembers or passengers who appear to be ill (coughing, sneezing, etc.); *and*
- 2).** That those ILA and management workers obliged to serve aboard passenger vessels be provided with properly fitted NIOSH-approved filtering facemasks and impermeable gloves;

Consistent with previous advice, we continue to provide extremely informative links to the relevant CDC and WHO websites. They provide excellent guidance:

Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC):

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

World Health Organization (WHO)

<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>

Got a question about this particular subject? Write to the JSC at: blueoceana@optonline.net

Working Together For The Benefit Of All

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