



भारत सरकार/GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय/MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE

पत्तन स्वास्थ्य संगठन/PORT HEALTH ORGANISATION

विलिंगडन आइलैंड/WILLINGDON ISLAND

कोच्चिन - 682009/COCHIN - 682009

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No. QC-PHECP/2021/991

Date : 06.12.2021

To  
The President  
Cochin Steamer Agents Association  
Cochin.

Subject : Covid -19 Disease – Omicron variant of concern -reg.

Dear Sir,

As you would all know, a Covid variant Omicron has affected a few South African and European countries which has become a grave matter of concern.

I had shared with you all the letter from the Health Secretary expressing concern and asking all PoE's to be cautious and take adequate precautions to prevent the entry of the Covid-19 variant Omicron into the country.

I have also shared with the agents the latest Guidelines for international arrival issued by the Ministry of Health and family Welfare on 30th November 2021.

The said guidelines is very clear on the SOP to be followed while receiving crews and ships from the countries listed out. As the disease is spreading, chances of more countries being added is always there.

The following instructions may be adhered to in case of ships coming from the listed countries or if there is any sign off at outer anchorage at Cochin, Vizhinjam or Kollam seaport from the listed countries.

As is presently being followed, vessel arrival notice should be shared with Port Health Organisation, Cochin. Request letter with

1. Maritime Declaration of Health including all the relevant information.
2. Port of Call List of the last 30 days.
3. Crew list.
4. Vaccination list of Yellow Fever.



5. Ship Sanitation Control Exemption Certificate/ Medicine Chest

6. Sign off list, if the ship is calling for sign off of the crews.

Should be shared by mail.

**If the ship has called at any of the 11 listed countries and arrives within 14 days to Cochin/ Vizhinjam Seaport, the following instructions have to be followed.**

1. The agent will inform the arrival of the ship at port. The Port Health Officer and the staff will board the ship first with full PPE kit and do thermal screening and if the crew and ship is found to be healthy, routine ship activities can continue.
2. Arrangement should be made by the agent to arrange a separate room for thermal screening on board the ship arriving from listed countries for PHO.
3. All the crews should be in full PPE kit and should follow Covid-19 protocol.
4. If the crew is to be signed off, the crew is to be disembarked with full PPE kit, thermal screening done and a Rapid T-PCR preferably at the berth should be done. If the Rapid T-PCR Test is not possible at berth, (for crews signing off at outer anchorage) the signed off crews can be taken to their respective hotel for quarantine and samples can be taken there and sent for testing.
5. The vehicle driver who will transport the crew to the hotel should wear full PPE kit and afterward the drop off, the vehicle should be sanitised thoroughly.
6. The crew will be quarantined in designated hotel till the testing result is received. If negative, the crew may be allowed to go home and should go into self-isolation for another 7 days.
7. If the Rapid T-PCR turns positive, the crew has to be sent to identified quarantine centre and the samples have to be sent to Rajiv Gandhi Centre of Biotechnology, Trivandrum for genome sequencing.
8. If the crew turns positive for Covid -19 variant, then the crew has to be quarantined at Government approved institution for 14 days following approved ICMR protocol for quarantine and treatment.
9. The ambulance which is to be arranged for Covid positive crew will be arranged by the steamer agents. The driver will be in PPE and the ambulance sanitised after the crew is dropped off at the hospital.



10. All the crews who are to be signed off should register in Covid-19 Jagratha Portal before proceeding to their hotel for quarantine.
11. All Indian crews may activate Aarogya Sethu application in their mobile before proceeding to their hotel for quarantine.
12. The ship cannot sail till the Rapid T-PCR test report of all the signed off crews is received. The ship can wait in Anchorage and if all are negative can sail from anchorage.
13. The ship will be quarantined for 7 days and all the crews blood samples will be sent for testing, if a crew turns positive for Covid-19 variant. The Covid-19 variant positive crews will be sent to quarantine centre identified for genome testing. The ship will be isolated for 7 days and retested by Rapid T-PCR on 8<sup>th</sup> day, if all the crews are negative, the ship will be allowed to sail.

**If the ship is quarantined then the following SOP will have to be followed.**

1. The Master to make primary contact line list of crews who have come in contact with positive crew members.
2. All the crew members should be isolated in their cabins.
3. Only the safe manning crew should be on duty and in adequate PPE's.
4. Crew watch must be in single person in each point as needed and should be in adequate PPE.
5. The AC should be in open mode and every 2 hours ventilation to be opened for 15 minutes for all the rooms if possible. The Chief Engineer to plan accordingly and keep the temperature at 25°C or above. The AC filters should be cleaned twice daily.
6. Only one crew can man the engine control room since it is a closed space. If 2 crews are required then both should be in adequate PPE and maintain safe distance.
7. All internal communication should be via VFT or mobile.
8. Make a list of crew who are 45 years and above.
9. Kindly make the lists of crews who are on medication for Diabetes, Hypertension, Heart conditions or any other illness.
10. All the crews to have separate Mercury Thermometer to self-monitor their temperature on twice daily basis.



11. The Chief Officer/ Doctor will talk to the crews and clear their anxiety and boost their morale.
12. A daily temperature charting along with symptoms if any have to be brought to the notice of Master or Chief Officer/ Doctor.
13. All the crews must be physically checked twice a day maintaining safe distance. Announcements can be made and the Master can physically verify and ask the crews for presence of symptoms.
14. Kindly update Maritime Declaration of Health and Temperature charting of the crews daily to Port Health Officer, Cochin for the period they remain in the port.
15. Adequate supplies of PPE, N95 mask, gloves, face shields, disinfectant (2% bleaching solution/ 70% alcohol/ Lysol solution), surgical mask, hand sanitizers, food packets and Bio-medical waste bags (Pulse oxymeter for all positive crew) should be adequately provided.
16. Kindly ensure disinfection of the common areas daily by healthy crew in adequate PPE.
17. Catering crew to follow all precautions while cooking.
18. The food is to be packed in disposable food packets and the mess boy in PPE will distribute food at the doors of the cabins. All the crews to be provided their own cutlery, plates, glass and cups.
19. The wastes generated by the crews to be put in individual bio-bags, sanitized and incinerated.
20. The linen of the sick crew members can be collected in bio-bags, sanitized and machine washed in hot boiling water and reissued to them again.
21. The Master to conduct RT-PCR Test of the remaining crews on the 8<sup>th</sup> day to rule out the possibility of Covid-19 variant infection on board and based on the RT-PCR Test result further course of action will be advised.
22. No person from shore will be allowed to board the vessel. If visit of technicians/ Surveyors is required then the concerned person can be allowed to board with full PPE. Social distancing, hand sanitization and temperature check should be followed strictly.
23. Information should be submitted to Cochin port authorities (Port Control, DC, HM, TM) and statutory authorities (Immigration, Customs, MMD).
24. Advice strict adherence to Covid – 19 protocol during Medical evacuation/ sign off/ sign on.



25. The positive crews may be signed off for genome testing and isolation and only the safe manning crew may be allowed to remain on board.
26. The ship is to be quarantined for 7 days for observation of symptoms amongst the rest of the crew members and retested on 8<sup>th</sup> day and if tested negative allowed to sail.

OR

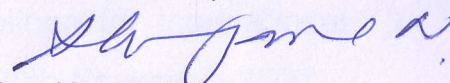
The ship will be in quarantine for 14 days if it has Covid-19 variant cases on board and retested again after 14 days if negative the ship can sail.

**IF THE SHIP IS NOT FROM THE LISTED COUNTRIES**

1. The crew will sign off, get Rapid RT-PCR test done, if negative the crew will be sent home for isolation for 7 days.
2. If Positive, the crew will be sent to quarantine centre for genome testing.

Enclosure - 1

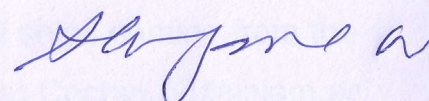
Yours sincerely,



Port Health Officer  
Cochin.

Copy for information to

1. The Deputy Conservator, Cochin Port Trust, Cochin.



Port Health Officer  
Cochin.