



GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE
(DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF HEALTH SERVICES)
PORT HEALTH ORGANISATION, CHENNAI

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-C I R C U L A R-

This Office has been ensuring the safe Port operations for all the ships calling in Chennai, Ennore, Kattupalli, Karaikal from the time the PHEIC was notified in 30th January 2020. The Ship visitors who are entering the ship for Port Operations are only Agent, Customs and Immigration Officers. All the Stevedores, Surveyors involved in the operations are already following very strict non-contact Port operations with no one allowed to communicate with the ship crew or enter the ship accommodation. All their interactions are only done through VHF, Email as per SOPs.

In view of **omicron variant of concern alert**, the Ports are also under alert for the same. The ships who have following scenarios will be under strict pre-arrival scrutiny for berthing and screening, Port operations.

- a. Ships coming from or crew of any nationalities joining in “**at risk**” countries & coming to our ports within 14 days.
- b. Ships with crew of the “**at risk countries**” nationals signing on the ship from any parts of the world & ship coming within 14 days.
- c. Ship crew who has joined a ship without any RT PCR tests coming within 14 days will be tested on arrival (so ensure all sign on crew are tested with RT-PCR reports before joining).

All such ship’s crew are to follow the Crew Changes SOP and practice isolation for first 7 days of joining or in the event of emergencies alone/ individual station duties are allowed to work with PPE.

After PHO clearance the **Pilot** have to use full PPE, N95 during berthing.

PHO Screening will ensure the health status of the crew and cleared for safe Port operations or Control measures/Testing if any suspect is identified among the crew.

All officials will be in full PPE and only open place meeting or Bridge meeting area will be allowed. **Stevedores** are to follow the non-contact SOP very strictly & Agent to ensure it with all of them.

Crew who are under **above scenarios** will be under isolation till 7 days completion, during Port operations and if they are needed for any essential Port operations, will be permitted by PHO after screening, advice with full PPE. COVID-19 SOP 8 adequacies must be checked before arrival.

Crew Changes: - Sign Off procedures will be same and Positive crew will also undergo genome sequencing, will follow the protocol as per Government guidelines for omicron suspect.

Sign On crew from at risk countries after clearance to join are to be under self-isolation, not involve in Port operations, practice crew changes SOP for 2 weeks and first 7 days with more strict restriction on need-based work only. Sign On crew from at risk countries to have travel plans to join the ship on the day of sailing or can join same day if there are facilities for isolation on ship and safe Port operations is possible by old crew.

Cruise Passenger Vessels SOP and instructions will be given when such calls are made in Port.

PPE use and ensure strict COVID appropriate behavior & facilities by all in and out of port areas.

Keep in touch for any assistance.



Yours faithfully,

(Dr.S. Senthilnathan)

Port Health Officer,

Chennai.

At Risk countries update will be added as per this link dynamically.

<https://www.mohfw.gov.in/pdf/ListofCountriestobereferredtoincontextofGuidelinesforinternationalarrivalsdated28thNovember2021updatedon30112021.pdf>

Guidelines of International Arrivals, 30.11.2021

<https://www.mohfw.gov.in/pdf/GuidelinesforInternationalarrivalsdated30thNovember2021.pdf>

All the SOPs for safe port operations, PPE/Disinfection/Screening/Safe disposal has already been shared.

CC To: - The Commissioner of Customs, Chennai

The FRRO, AFFRO, Immigration Officer, Chennai, Kattupalli seaports.

The Chairman of CPT, The CMD, KPL, The GM, AKKPL, The Principal Officer of MMD, The President CHENSAA, The President, CHA & Stevedores Association Chennai, Ennore, Kattupalli.