



March 13, 2020

Message from the Captain of the Port of New York & New Jersey Re: COVID-19

I am writing to share as much information as possible regarding the dynamic and uncertain situation we are facing with COVID-19. As this situation continues to evolve, we are focused on the following objectives: ensuring the safety of our port community and minimizing the spread of COVID-19, continuing to execute our missions in a COVID-19 environment, and working collaboratively with our government and industry partners to ensure the safety, security, and resiliency of the region's Marine Transportation System (MTS).

As part of this effort, I seek your support with the following:

1. First and foremost, it is important to take this threat seriously. COVID-19 testing is a lagging indicator, and the virus is spreading. The numbers you read in the news are likely much lower than actual cases. Assume that COVID-19 may already be in your communities and potentially in your workforce. It is imperative that we all do our part to slow the spread of this global pandemic to protect our families, our communities, and our vital maritime workforce. I strongly urge aggressive preventative action in accordance with all public health recommendations: strict social distancing, frequent hand washing, and staying home when sick, etc. When in doubt, err on the side of caution. This is our best collective defense against COVID-19.
2. Coast Guard screening and reporting requirements continue to evolve, most recently with the President's announcement on Thursday of new entry requirements for the Schengen region of Europe. I have attached the most current Marine Safety Information Bulletins - MSIB Number 02-20, Novel Coronavirus - Update (Change 2) which implements this policy, as well as MSIB Number 06-20, Vessel Reporting Requirements for Illness and Death. I ask for your support in implementing these important measures.
3. Please help the Coast Guard stay ahead of anticipated or actual MTS interruptions that could impact the port by reporting those to our Sector Command Center at (718) 354-4353. In order to provide an avenue for robust information sharing, we are instituting a regular Port Information Sharing Call with port partners. The next call will be held on March 16th at 1430, teleconference Phone Number: 866-564-7791 Passcode: 6928650#.
4. Lastly, it is critical to stay informed. The Centers for Disease Control and prevention is the lead federal responder, and their website has excellent resources and the most up to date information. I recommend you visit this site frequently: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>
5. Thank you for your continued support and collaboration during this very difficult time. I look forward to working together to ensure the continued safety, security, and resiliency of our MTS.



J.P. TAMA

Captain, U.S. Coast Guard
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