

**U.S. CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION
FIELD OPERATIONS, NEW YORK
PORT OF NEW YORK / NEWARK**

TO: All Vessel Owners, Agents, Consignees, Charterers, Masters, Commanding Officers, Carriers and Terminal Operators in the Port of New York/Newark

SUBJECT: The requirement of safeguarding detained crewmembers falling within 14 days of their arrival from COVID-19 restricted countries.

DATE: MARCH 19, 2020

REFERENCES: 8 CFR Part 252.1

Purpose: The purpose of this document is to provide information concerning operational procedures and guidelines pertaining to the boarding of all foreign arriving vessels entering the Port of New York/Newark from the COVID-19 restricted countries.

Background: Commercial shipping involves the movement of large numbers of crewmembers in closed and semi-closed settings. Like other close-contact environments, ships may facilitate transmission of respiratory viruses from person to person through exposure to respiratory droplets or contact with contaminated surfaces. Early detection, prevention, and control of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) on ships is important to protect and avoid transmission of the virus by arriving crewmembers who could be suspected of having COVID-19.

Action: *In accordance with 8 CFR 252.1: Examination of crewmen.*

All persons employed in any capacity on board any vessel or aircraft arriving in the United States shall be detained on board the vessel or at the airport of arrival by the master or agent of such vessel or aircraft until admitted or otherwise permitted to land by an officer of the Service. The examination of every nonimmigrant alien crewman arriving in the United States shall be in accordance with this part.....

Effective 0000 hours on March 17, 2020, CBP in conjunction with the United States Coast Guard have detained all foreign crew members arriving within 14 days from the following countries: Iran, China (excluding Hong Kong and Macau), United Kingdom, Ireland and European states within the Schengen Area: Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece,

Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, and Switzerland.

CBP is requiring a guard presence to deter the absconding of detained crewmembers prior to inspection by our officers on the 15th day from their last port call in the affected countries listed above. Every vessel that arrives into the Port of New York/ Newark that fits the criteria listed above will be contacted by CBP to ensure a proper security plan is in place prior to the vessel's arrival.

CBP recognizes the hardship this may place on crewmembers however, this protocol is necessary to address the health concerns in our ports. We appreciate your continued partnership in this matter. For any questions or concerns please contact a Supervisory CBP Officer, Maritime Admissibility Unit, Port of New York/Newark at 201-436-2850 or e-mail MAU-NY-NWK@cbp.dhs.gov.