ALON
Ocean Wave

2020
4th March

PANDIMAN PHILIPPINES Inc.
P&I Correspondent in the Philippines

Topics of interest relating to the Philippine Maritime Industry and Shipping

COVID - 19

Requirements for vessels arriving Philippines
and
POEA General Guidelines (Details on Seafarers)

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Vessels arriving Philippines ports.

ALL vessels calling from China, in the past 14 days must be boarded at the quarantine anchorage. The Master of the vessel must issue/send a of Notice of Arrival/Ports of Call, in order for a Quarantine doctor to board the vessel, who will clear the seafarer's onboard. Once cleared, they will be allowed to berth at the Philippines. However, the Bureau of Quarantine strictly implements the NO embarkation/disembarkation policy.

Please see attached complete Department Of Health (DOH) Circular 2020 / 34, Dated 4th February 2020

POEA Guideline

Please see attached complete POEA Memorandum Circular (MC) 2020 / 03 dated 27th February 2020

Key points for Seabased;

Section 1

For joining and disembarking crew for international sea-going vessels, all flights should be scheduled without layovers in China and in any other areas that may be subsequently covered by travel bans.

Section 3

a. Seabased Workers - In addition to the travel precautions, manning agencies and seafarers working in international sea-going vessel are further advised to observe the following:

1. No disembarkation, no crew change and no shore leave policies are in effect for all Filipino seafarers employed on ships calling on ports of China and in any other areas that may be subsequently added by the Philippine Government and its travel ban;
2. Ensure personal protective equipment (PPEs) including facial protection is *provided for all crew;*
3. Frequently clean hands by using alcohol-based hand rub or soap and water;
4. Avoid close contact with anyone who has fever and cough;
5. Avoid direct unprotected contact with live animals and surfaces in contact with animals when visiting live markets in areas currently experiencing cases of the COVID-19,
6. Avoid the consumption of raw or undercooked animal products;
7. For galley workers: Strictly observe strict food hygiene and safety in the storage, preparation and serving of to avoid cross-contamination particularly in the handling of raw meat, milk or animal organs during food preparation.

Section 4

b. Seabased Workers

b.1 Seafarers who contracted the illness due to COVID-19 shall be compensable by principals/employers.

b.2 All manning agencies must make arrangements to release the final ages of seafarers under quarantine at the soonest practical time.

b.3 Request for extension of contract of seafarers onboard their international sea-going vessels due to possible delay in disembarkation and repatriation of seaman shall be allowed.

Section 5

b.Seafarers Working in International Sea-going Vessels

b.I. Seafarers who will be repatriated from vessels with documented COVID-19 infection or the itinerary of which are known to be affected by COVID-19 shall be subjected to the quarantine protocols prescribed by the IAFT-EID, DOH or the Bureau of Quarantine;

b.2. If a crew member onboard falls sick and has been travelling to COVID-19 affected areas 2 to 12 days before embarkation, the person must observe self- quarantine;

b.3. If a crew member is sick onboard a ship, he/she must fill out the maritime declaration of health and notify his/her manning agency, relevant port authority and must immediately consult the nearest available healthcare provider;

b.4 Seafarers who finished or are soon to complete their contract of employment from vessels coming from COVID-19 affected areas will be disembarked in the next nearest port/country that allows crew repatriation under their quarantine regulations; and

b.5. In the event that the disembarked/ repatriated seafarers who may have come into contact with persons infected with COVID-2019, have experienced symptoms of COVID-2019, they must immediately inform the manning agent by phone call, text or email in the following hotlines:

Hospitals/Medical Facility	Contact Number
San Lazaro Hospital (Metro Manila)	8732-3776
Research Institute for Tropical Medicine (Metro Manila)	8807-2628 to 32
Vicente Sotto Memorial Medical Hospital (Cebu)	(032)2539882
Southern Philippines Medical Center (Davao)	(082) 227-2731

Note international code for the Philippines is +63

Section 6

b.Seabased Workers - The OECs issued through in-house processing which are affected by the travel ban shall be recognized as valid for deployment upon submission of a report of the respective manning agencies containing the name of the seafarers and their corresponding OEC numbers to the POEA Seabased Accreditation and Contract Processing Center (Seabased Center). The Seabased Center shall coordinate with the POEA's Labor Assistance Center (LAC) and/or Regional and Overseas Coordinating Office (ROCO) to ensure that the validity of such OECs are recognized.

Section 8

8.b. Seabased Workers

Consistent with POEA Advisory No. 18, Series of 2020, seafarers are allowed to join as well as to be repatriated or to disembark from Hong Kong SAR and Macau SAR upon execution of a Declaration (copy attached) signifying their knowledge and understanding the risks involved in the current health developments caused by the Corona Virus Disease 2019 (COVID-19).

Shore leaves are being discouraged in Hong Kong SAR and Macau SAR.

Please contact Pandiman at any time for further information.

Andy Malpass MM
President & GM
Pandiman Philippines Inc.

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

04 February 2020

DEPARTMENT CIRCULAR
No. 2020-0034

FOR : **Port Operators, Other Port Authorities, Shipping Agencies, Ship Handlers, and Concerned Manning Agencies**

SUBJECT : **GUIDELINES AT ALL SEAPORTS FOR PREVENTION AND SPREAD OF NOVEL CORONAVIRUS ACUTE RESPIRATORY DISEASE (2019-NCOV ARD)**

On 30th of January 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared the 2019-nCoV ARD as a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC). The WHO emphasized the urgent need to coordinate international efforts to investigate and better understand 2019–nCoV, to minimize threat in affected countries and to reduce the risk of further international spread.

On the 31st of January 2020 President Rodrigo Duterte through the recommendation of the Inter - Agency task force for Emerging and Re-emerging Diseases issued a temporary travel ban for those travelers coming from China, including Hong Kong and Macau SAR.

In line with the directive of the President, the Bureau of Quarantine shall be implementing the following measures effective immediately at all seaport for all maritime vessels.

A. For Cruise Vessel

A.1 All Cruise Ships with passengers, regardless of nationality, from China, Macau and Hong Kong SAR or had passed through in the past fourteen (14) days are not allowed to dock at any Philippine port.

A.2 All Cruise Ships not calling on the ports of China, Macau and Hong Kong SAR within the last fourteen (14) days are allowed to dock in Philippine ports. They must undergo complete screening measures, submission of duly-accomplished Maritime Declaration of Health, and other pertinent documents related to 2019-nCoV ARD.

A.3 All Cruise Ships allowed to dock must declare all travel itineraries/excursions in the Philippines.

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A.4 The master of vessel must report immediately any occurrence of flu-like symptoms (e.g fever, cough, colds, body weakness and difficulty of breathing). In an event of flu like manifestation arise, the master must immediately report to the Quarantine Medical Officer (QMO) for guidance on implementing infection prevention and control protocols to minimize the spread of infection on board.

A.5 The QMO will conduct triaging of case/s using current Case Definition. *(Please refer to Annex 1 Decision Tool for nCoV ARD Assessment for BoQ and Hospitals as January 30, 2020)*

A.6 No Filipinos are allowed to embark in any cruise ship going to China.

B. For Cargo Vessels

B.1 All vessels calling from China, including Hong Kong and Macau SAR, in the past fourteen (14) days must be boarded at the quarantine anchorage.

B.2 Upon arrival at quarantine anchorage, the master of vessel must hoist at its foremast the yellow flag and inform immediately the Quarantine station at assigned port through ship agents. Strictly no embarkation/disembarkation policy.

B.3 Quarantine Boarding formalities shall ensue – the master of the vessel shall submit a duly accomplished Maritime Declaration of Health and BOQ shall issue *free pratique*. Other boarding formalities shall commence.

B.4 Vessels cleared at the first port of entry and calling another local port, which within the past 14 days travelled from China, Hongkong and Macau SAR, must be boarded at the designated Quarantine anchorage area by QMO, submit duly accomplished Maritime Declaration of Health and other pertinent documents.

B.5 The master of vessel must report immediately any occurrence of flu-like symptoms (e.g fever, cough, colds, body weakness and difficulty of breathing). In an event of flu like manifestation arise, the master must immediately report to the QMO for guidance on implementing infection prevention and control protocols to minimize the spread of infection on board.

B.6 The QMO will conduct triaging of case/s using current Case Definition. *(Please refer to Annex 1 Decision Tool for nCoV ARD Assessment for BoQ and Hospitals as January 30, 2020)*

B.7 Ship agent of Vessel with PUI situated in a non-competent port will arrange the immediate diversion of the vessel to the nearest competent port (Manila and Cebu) in the Philippine territory.

B.8 PUI in a competent port will be conducted to a dedicated hospital and the vessel will be declared as *affected vessel*. A confirmed laboratory result of case will

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commence a 14-day quarantine at the anchorage and hoist the Lima flag. Day zero starts at the conduction of the PUI.

On the 14th day, the QMO will board the vessel, examine the documents, muster the crew and issue a *free pratique*. The master of vessel may then lower down yellow flag, and other formalities will commence.

C. General Preventive Measures

C.1 Continue hygienic practices and sanitary measures at all times.

C.2 Waste disposal of vessels coming in from China, including Hong Kong and Macau SAR, in the past fourteen (14) days, are not allowed in Philippine ports.

For strict compliance.

This issuance may be changed depending on the evolving public health conditions.

All issuances inconsistent with any provision of this memorandum are deemed revoked, amended or modified accordingly.

By Authority of the Secretary of Health,

ROLANDO ENRIQUE D. DOMINGO, MD, DPBO
Undersecretary of Health, Chief of Staff

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Department of Health

Philippine Overseas Employment Administration

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Labor and Employment
BFO Building, Ortigas Avenue cor. EDSA, Mandaluyong City 1550

Website: www.poea.gov.ph E-mail: info@poea.gov.ph
Hotlines: 8722-1144, 8722-1155

PHILIPPINE OVERSEAS EMPLOYMENT ADMINISTRATION
Administrative Branch
Central Records Division
MAR 02 2020
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MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR No. 03
Series of 2020

FOR : **ALL CONCERNED**

SUBJECT : **General Guidelines on the Management of the Corona Virus Disease (COVID-19) Situation**

DATE : **27 February 2020**

The World Health Organization (WHO) declared Corona Virus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) situation as Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC). Pursuant to the recommendations of the Inter-Agency Task Force on the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (AITF-EID), the following guidelines are hereby adopted.

1. Travel Ban

The temporary ban on the departure of travelers bound for China has been imposed by the Philippine government for all visa types.

Consistent with the mandate of affording protection to all overseas Filipino workers (OFWs), whether landbased or seabased workers, the POEA shall defer to the competent health authorities on matters concerning subsequent declaration or lifting of travel bans due to the spread of COVID-19.

For joining and disembarking crew for international sea-going vessels, all flights should be scheduled without layovers in China and in any other areas that may be subsequently covered by travel bans.

2. Travel Precautions

OFWs and seafarers travelling to countries not covered by the travel ban are advised to practice the following preventive measures provided by the Department of Health (DOH):

a. Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds;
b. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available;
c. Cover mouth and nose with a tissue or sleeve when coughing and sneezing;
d. Properly dispose used tissue in waste containers;
e. Maintain distance from individuals manifesting flu-like symptoms;

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f. Avoid animals (alive or dead), animal markets, and products that come from animals (i.e. uncooked meat);
g. Strictly follow advisories and public health plans of the country of transit or destination;
h. Know the location of the nearest health facilities.

3. Onsite Precautionary Measures for OFWs and Seafarers

a. Landbased Workers – In addition to the advised travel precautions, OFWs are further advised to strictly follow the precautionary health measures as well as prescribed occupational and safety health (OSH) in the countries/ territories of work including, but not limited to the following:

1. Avoid touching the eyes, nose and mouth;
2. Do not share toiletries or towels with others;
3. Exercise regularly, take adequate rest and maintain a balanced diet;
4. Avoid visiting crowded places and hospitals;
5. Wear a mask if necessary;
6. Avoid close contact with patients with fever or symptoms of respiratory infection;
7. If developing symptoms such as fever or respiratory symptoms, consult a doctor immediately; and
8. Know the location and contact points of the nearest Philippine Overseas Labor Office (POLO), Embassy or Consulate.

b. Seabased Workers – In addition to the travel precautions, manning agencies and seafarers working in international sea-going vessels are further advised to observe the following:

1. No disembarkation, no crew change and no shore leave policies are in effect for all Filipino seafarers employed on ships calling on ports of China and in any other areas that may be subsequently added by the Philippine Government and its travel ban;
2. Ensure personal protective equipment (PPEs) including facial protection is provided for all crew;
3. Frequently clean hands by using alcohol-based hand rub or soap and water;
4. Avoid close contact with anyone who has fever and cough;
5. Avoid direct unprotected contact with live animals and surfaces in contact with animals when visiting live markets in areas currently experiencing cases of the COVID-19,
6. Avoid the consumption of raw or undercooked animal products;
7. For galley workers: Strictly observe strict food hygiene and safety in the storage, preparation and serving of to avoid cross-contamination particularly in the handling of raw meat, milk or animal organs during food preparation.

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4. Onsite Employment Conditions

Provision of Wages

a. Landbased Workers – The minimum provisions of the standard employment contract (SEC) that cover OFWs shall continue to apply.

b. Seabased Workers

b.1 Seafarers who contracted illness due to COVID-2019 shall be compensable by the Principals/employers.

b.2 All manning agencies must make arrangements to release the final wages of seafarers under quarantine at the soonest practicable time.

b.3 Request for extension of contract of seafarers onboard their international sea-going vessels due to possible delay in disembarkation and repatriation of seafarers shall be allowed.

5. Quarantine Procedures/Medical Repatriation/ Voluntary Repatriation Procedures

a. Landbased Workers – Workers who will be repatriated shall be subjected to the quarantine protocols prescribed by the AITF-EID, DOH, or the Bureau of Quarantine.

b. Seafarers Working in International Sea-going Vessels

b.1. Seafarers who will be repatriated from vessels with documented COVID-19 infection or the itinerary of which are known to be affected by COVID-19 shall be subjected to the quarantine protocols prescribed by the IAFT-EID, DOH or the Bureau of Quarantine;

b.2. If a crew member onboard falls sick and has been travelling to COVID-19 affected areas 2 to 12 days before embarkation, the person must observe self-quarantine;

b.3. If a crew member is sick onboard a ship, he/she must fill out the maritime declaration of health and notify his/her manning agency, relevant port authority and must immediately consult the nearest available healthcare provider;

b.4 Seafarers who finished or are soon to complete their contract of employment from vessels coming from COVID-19 affected areas will be disembarked in the next nearest port/country that allows crew repatriation under their quarantine regulations; and

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b.5. In the event that the disembarked/ repatriated seafarers who may have come into contact with persons infected with COVID-2019, have experienced symptoms of COVID-2019, they must immediately inform the manning agent by phone call, text or email in the following hotlines:

Hospitals/Medical Facility	Contact Number
San Lazaro Hospital (Metro Manila)	8732-3776
Research Institute for Tropical Medicine (Metro Manila)	8807-2628 to 32
Vicente Sotto Memorial Medical Hospital (Cebu)	(032) 2539882
Southern Philippines Medical Center (Davao)	(082) 227-2731

6. POEA OEC Procedures

a. Newly-hired landbased workers - OFWs who already processed their documents prior to the ban and were actually issued an Overseas Employment Certificate (OEC) need not shoulder further expenses in reprocessing of their documents. The POEA Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Branch shall coordinate with the POEA's Labor Assistance Center (LAC) and/or Regional and Overseas Coordinating Office (ROCO) to ensure that previously issued OECs shall be recognized as valid for deployment as soon as the travel ban has been lifted.

b. Seabased Workers - The OECs issued through in-house processing which are affected by the travel ban shall be recognized as valid for deployment upon submission of a report of the respective manning agencies containing the name of the seafarers and their corresponding OEC numbers to the POEA Seabased Accreditation and Contract Processing Center (Seabased Center). The Seabased Center shall coordinate with the POEA's Labor Assistance Center (LAC) and/or Regional and Overseas Coordinating Office (ROCO) to ensure that the validity of such OECs are recognized.

c. Balik-Manggawa / Returning Workers - Returning OFWs can re-apply for Balik-Manggagawa (BM) Exemption Certificate through the BM online system, or apply through the POEA offices for OECs in accordance with existing appropriate issuances.

7. Health and Safety Precautions in Recruitment and Manning Agencies in the Philippines

Private recruitment and manning agencies based in the Philippines are advised to implement DOLE Advisory No. 04, Series of 2020 providing for *Guidelines on 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019 n-CoV) Prevention and Control at the Workplace.*

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8. Lifting of the Travel Ban for Hong Kong SAR and Macau SAR

Pursuant to the recommendations of the IATF-EID contained in Resolution No. 06 Series of 2020, OFWs and seafarers are required to affirm their knowledge on the health conditions in Hong Kong SAR and Macau SAR through a Declaration as well as other requirements that may be subsequently recommended by the task force, World Health Organization or the DOH.

The Declaration forms for both Landbased (newhires and returning workers) and Seafarers can be downloaded from the POEA website (www.poea.gov.ph).

8.a. Landbased Workers

8.a.1. Per POEA Advisory No. 18, Series of 2020, OFWs, whether newly hired or returning, can be allowed to travel to Hong Kong SAR and Macau SAR upon execution of a Declaration signifying their knowledge and understanding the risks involved in the current health developments caused by the Corona Virus Disease 2019 (COVID-19). The administration of the Declaration and the form are free of charge.

8.a.2. For returning workers who are not OEC exempted, the Declaration will serve as additional requirement aside from the existing Balik-Manggagawa requirements in securing OECs.

8.a.3. Returning workers who opt to secure their OECs at the Philippine Overseas Labor Offices (POLOs) in Hong Kong SAR and Macau SAR can obtain and submit their Declaration to the said POLOs. The execution and submission of Declaration shall likewise apply to other POLOs where the said document may be required henceforth.

8.a.4. OFWs, whether newhires or BMs not OEC exempted, who will obtain their OECs at the POEA central office and its regional, extension and satellite offices may secure and submit their Declaration to the said offices.

8.a.5. For those who are OEC exempted, the Declaration may be obtained and submitted to the POEA Labor Assistance Center located at all Philippine international airports.

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8.b. Seabased Workers

Consistent with POEA Advisory No. 18, Series of 2020, seafarers are allowed to join as well as to be repatriated or to disembark from Hong Kong SAR and Macau SAR upon execution of a Declaration (copy attached) signifying their knowledge and understanding the risks involved in the current health developments caused by the Corona Virus Disease 2019 (COVID-19).

Shore leaves are being discouraged in Hong Kong SAR and Macau SAR.

9. Other issuances

Subsequent advisories shall be issued by the POEA consistent with the recommendations of the IATF-EID as well as by other competent authorities relevant to the protection of OFWs, as appropriate.

For strict compliance.

BERNARD P. OLALIA
Administrator

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COVID Declaration Newly-Hired Worker

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
CITY OF _____) S.S.

DECLARATION

I, _____, of legal age, Filipino, sinlge/married and a resident of _____, after having sworn to in accordance with law do hereby depose and say:

1. That I am a newly-hired worker as (*occupation*)_____ for my employer _____ at _____ _____;

2. That I shall willingly subject my self to prescribed health checks by concerned authorities in the Philippines and (*country/territory*)_____ during my travel to and from the latter;

3. That I am informed and made aware by government authorities that I am putting myself at potential risk of exposure to CoViD-19 by proceeding to (*country/territory*) _____.

4. That I fully understand what I have signed and that no one forced or prompted me to execute this waiver and that the foregoing statements are all facts.

IN **WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand this _____.

_____
Affiant

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this _____ day of _____ in the City/Municipality of _____.

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COVID Declaration Returning Worker

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
CITY OF _____) S.S.

DECLARATION

I, _____, of legal age, Filipino, sinlge/married and a resident of _____, after having sworn to in accordance with law do hereby depose and say:

1. That a returning worker working as (occupation)_____ for my employer_____ at _____ and I have been working for the employer since _____;

2. That I went to the Philippines on _____ and I was scheduled to return on _____ at _____ to resume my employment with _____ as _____;

3. That I shall willingly subject my self to prescribed health checks by concerned authorities in the Philippines and (*country/territory*)_____ during my travel to and from the latter;

4. That I am informed and made aware by government authorities that I am putting myself at potential risk of exposure to CoViD-19 by proceeding to (*country/territory*) _____.

5. That I fully understand what I have signed and that no one forced or prompted me to execute this waiver and that the foregoing statements are all facts.

IN **WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand this _____.

_____
Affiant

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this _____ day of _____ in the City/Municipality of _____.

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COVID Declaration Seafarer

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
CITY OF _____)

DECLARATION

I, _____, of legal age, Filipino, single/married and a resident of _____, after having sworn to in accordance with law do hereby depose and say:

1. That I am a seafarer, employed by manning agency _____, as (position) _____, for its accredited principal (name) _____, and registered vessel (name) _____.

2. That I shall willingly subject myself to prescribed health checks by concerned authorities in the Philippines and (country/territory) _____ and concerned vessel's ports of call _____ during my travel to and from the latter;

3. That I am informed and made aware by government authorities that I am putting myself at potential risk of exposure to COVID-19 by transiting to (country/territory) _____.

4. That I fully understand what I have signed and that no one forced or prompted me to execute this waiver and that the foregoing statements are all facts.

IN **WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand this _____.

_____
Affiant

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this _____day of _____in the City/ Municipality of _____.

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