General Information
COVID-19 has been spreading around the world since December 2019. In March 2020 the WHO classified the disease as a pandemic.
In Germany and the rest of the world major effort is being put into stopping the spread of the virus. Seafarers are allowed to travel to Hamburg from abroad. They do not need to quarantine for 14 days if they are on direct route to their vessel or from their vessel to their home country (e.g. by plane). The exemption for seafarers to quarantine also applies if they travel to Hamburg from a coronavirus risk area (countries/territories outside the ‘safe travel corridors’). The German border police defines ‘direct route’ as a route that must not involve more than one overnight stay.
Seafarers who arrive in Hamburg from a coronavirus risk area must immediately inform the authority in charge. On request they must present a medical certificate to the authority in charge (negative SARS-CoV-2 test).

What you should do on Board
Even if there was no corona case on board, you should instruct the crew to follow the general hygiene rules and in particular stick to the rules for reducing contact and hygiene: distance, hygiene, face masks. You should ensure adequate ventilation and a regular supply of fresh air. Make sure that detailed hygiene management regulations are in place as part of the work safety system onboard the ship. On request the HPHC will provide advice on occupational medicine and hygiene rules in cooperation with the Institute for Occupational and Maritime Medicine [ZfAM].

The strict adherence to personal protective measures by passengers and crew can reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission. These measures include:

- Physical distancing
- Respiratory etiquette
- Meticulous hand hygiene
- Appropriate use of face masks, in areas where physical distancing is impossible
- If available, the use of mobile contact tracing applications is recommended

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Psychosocial Care
Try to maintain a structured daily routine for your crew. Be there for your crew and listen to them. Encourage all seamen to communicate and share experiences, for example by offering opportunities to talk. Among others, the missions to seafarers will be happy to support you in that. If you think that crew members show signs of psychosocial distress, crisis intervention teams are available to provide free-of-charge assistance. The Port Medical Service or the staff at the seamen’s clubs will have more information on their services.

Going Ashore
The local health authorities principally permit all seafarers to go ashore provided they abide by the rules set forth in the Hamburg Regulation to stop the Spread of the Coronavirus, SARS-CoV-2. That includes observing the general hygiene measures, complying with the contact restrictions in place and wearing mandatory face masks. To vessels that arrive from non-EU member states and dock in Hamburg the German border police regulations apply.
As far as possible, all seafarers will be given the opportunity to take a short trip ashore, including a visit to the mission to seafarers (Duckdalben), however they must remain within the port area and stick to the hygiene rules.

Medical Certificates
The Port and Airport Health Service will issue medical certificates on request. The service is chargeable. To make an appointment please send an email to: hphc@hu.hamburg.de or call the Service on: +49 (0) 40 428452209
The HPHC does not test people for coronavirus who do not display symptoms.

For the latest information go to:
https://www.healthygateways.eu/Novel-coronavirus

In a medical emergency, call the ambulance service on 112.

You can find your local health authority at:
https://tools.rki.de/plztool/

As the situation is evolving, entry regulations may change at short notice. Make sure to visit our website for the latest information (see QR code on the reverse).

What to do in case of suspected COVID-19 Infection on board
Contact the Port and Airport Health Service [HPHC] immediately if you have any suspected cases of coronavirus on board. The HPHC will do the required testing, advise you on how to proceed and order you to take the necessary hygiene measures. If anyone is severely unwell, the HPHC will also arrange disembarkation and transfer to an appropriate facility. You can call us around the clock on +49 (0) 173-2322871.

In a medical emergency, call the ambulance service on 112.