



MINISTRY OF HOUSING
AND URBAN PLANNING

In charge of interislands transportations

POLYNESIAN MARITIME AFFAIRS
DIRECTORATE

The director

FRENCH POLYNESIA

NO. 4891/MLA/DPAM

Papeete on 3 November 2020

<p style="text-align: center;">BRIEFING NOTE FOR FISHING VESSEL OWNERS</p>

Following the strengthening of measures taken to curb the spread of the virus, the owners of fishing vessels in French Polynesia are called upon to:

- Implement the recommendations detailed in the fact sheet attached to this note;
- **implement preventive measures days prior to the departure during which the crew must strictly respect barrier gestures and distance and avoid gathering places (family and extra-familial/social);**
- set up a procedure in the company before boarding in case of symptoms: a medical consultation is required to benefit from a COVID test;
- update the company's Occupational Risk Assessment (ORA) document to reflect this new risk for crews and employees.

It is also reminded that:

- It is strictly forbidden to dock in islands other than Tahiti or in the island of the port of departure (with the exception of an emergency with prior reporting to SAMU VHF15 / JRCC VHF16);
- It is strictly forbidden to board any person or passenger other than those declared in the crew list.
- COVID Call Centre or Health Watch Office (BVS) can be consulted for any assistance or questions regarding measures and recommendations taken to fight the COVID 19 epidemic.
COVID Call Centre - Phone. **+689 40 455 000**
Health Watch Office - **medecins.bvs@sante.gov.pf**
- Where a case of COVID 19 is found or suspected on board a vessel, the landing of the sailor must not, **under any circumstances**, be organized at the initiative of the ship or the shipowner.
- The JRCC - SAMU should be immediately contacted in order to define, with the relevant authorities, the requested action:
- When personnel on board no longer meet the minimum workforce for assuring personnel safety, the vessel will theoretically no longer fit to continue its operation and will have to return to its base port or a designated port (particularly if the master and/or his second are no longer able to perform their function). In this type of situation, the vessel owner must immediately notify DPAM at:

securite.dpam@maritime.gov.pf - accueil.dpam@maritime.gov.pf

Coronavirus COVID-19

RECOMMENDATIONS TO LIMIT THE RISK OF SPREADING THE VIRUS ON FISHING VESSELS

These recommendations apply to anyone required to board a fishing vessel.

- **FROM A PUBLIC HEALTH-HYGIENE POINT OF VIEW**

Everyone must take care of their health and safety, as well as that of their colleagues and those around them, while respecting barrier rules common to all and instructions on board the vessel.

Compliance with barrier rules is essential

WHAT ARE THE INSTRUCTIONS TO FOLLOW ON BOARD?



Regularly **WASH YOUR HANDS** (with soap or hydroalcoholic solution)



COUGH or **SNEEZE** in your elbow or a tissue



USE single-use tissue and discard them



AVOID contacts:
Do not shake hands



MAINTAIN, whenever possible a security distance of at least one metre with your colleagues



AVOID touching your eyes, nose, mouth



DO NOT EXCHANGE materials or equipment (cigarettes, lighters included)



Regularly **CLEAN** and **DISINFECT** contact surfaces with a decontamination product

Crew should also be made aware of the following instructions given to the population on fever and respiratory symptoms.

Before departure, people with signs of Covid-19 infection (fatigue, fever, headache, loss of taste or smell, aches, respiratory discomfort or diarrhea) should consult a doctor. These persons and those who have had direct contact with a Covid-positive patient must remain in isolation at their home (for 7 days after last contact) and not board.

Temperature reading is not required to board the ship. Nevertheless, it can be used as a surveillance sign for the occurrence of this disease. Any temperature above 38° Celsius and observed at least twice a quarter of an hour apart should result in a medical consultation or teleconsultation.

Wearing a surgical mask is mandatory for the sailor with signs of illness and for the carer.

- **FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF THE OBLIGATIONS OF THE EMPLOYER**

The employer must take the necessary measures "to ensure the safety and protection of the physical and moral health of workers." Protective equipment (masks, hydro-alcoholic gel, etc.) must be made available to crew.

Crew should be informed of behaviors to adopt or to avoid, of the need not to board in case of symptoms and to immediately alert if there are occurrences on board.

Where possible, the work organization should be designed to reduce risk by:

- Less crowding on deck: crew must respect a distance of at least 1 meter between them, or, failing that, wear a mask;
- Avoid interactions with persons not from the vessel with the exception of those who are actually required to board for their activity;
- Limiting watch staff on the bridge;
- Meals in shifts or with a space of at least 1 meter between diners;
- Do not share cabins where possible;
- Prohibit any exchange or loan of equipment or other tools between crew;
- Regularly clean contact surfaces (see below);
- Ensure regular hand cleaning and provide soap and/or hydro-alcoholic gel.

The masks made available by the owner can be of different types: surgical masks as a priority or " public general use " masks.

If the mask is likely to get wet, the protection can be enhanced by wearing a protective visor associated with the mask.

The surgical mask is only effective when worn correctly:

- the right way (colored face outwards),
- with the reinforced side of the nasal bar placed on the base of the nose,
- the mask should wrap the face and pass under the chin.

The surgical mask is single-use and has a lifespan of 4 hours. It must be disposed of in a garbage can with a bag and lid. The bag is closed and then kept 24 hours before being put in a normal circuit of household garbage. Follow the manufacturer's instructions for other types of masks.

It is imperative to wear them in enclosed areas where distancing is not possible.

CONDUCT TO BE FOLLOWED IF A POSSIBLE CASE ENCOUNTERED DURING NAVIGATION

Reminder of COVID-19 infection signs: fever, cough, sneezing, sudden fatigue, muscle pain, loss of taste or smell, diarrhea.

1. Systematically inform the captain and the person in charge of on board care
2. Immediately implement these protection measures:
 - Isolate the crew member;
 - The crew member who is sick must wear a surgical mask (available in medical first aid kit);
 - The cabin or isolation area must be fully disinfected (see below);
 - Limit interventions with the sick crewman;
 - Provide surveillance for other crew members on board.
 - **Contact JRCC VHF16 or SAMU VHF15 for instructions on appropriate measures to take during navigation, do not disembark a crew member on an island without prior contact from health authorities.**

FOR ANY COVID HEALTH INFORMATION REGARDING THE CREW

Call the COVID Centre or send an email to the Health Watch office

COVID Call Centre - Phone. **+689 40 455 000**

medecins.bvs@sante.gov.pf

EMERGENCY

AT SEA – WHEN THERE IS A SICK CREWMEMBER ON BOARD:

MEDICAL REGULATION CENTRE: SAMU 15

Call through JRCC

VHF channel 16 – GSM mobile call 16

VESSEL DESINFECTATION RULES

- For disinfecting surfaces, use: disinfectant wipes, surface disinfectant (type Anios) or diluted bleach with single-use gloves. It is necessary to check the anti-viral (not just bactericidal) character

of the wipes.

- Disposable material should be put in a closed bag in a normal trash circuit.
- A preventive disinfection protocol for frequently touched surfaces concerns: stair ramps/rails, support bars, door handles, seat backs, walkways, including reinforced cleaning of toilets.
- Computer keyboards, digital controls and instruments handled by multiple people must be disinfected after each use.
- When the sick crew member has occupied an isolation cabin or room, the cleaning is done in two stages:
 1. Removal the bedding by a person protected with MGG (mask, goggles, gloves) and washing laundry at 60°C for 60 minutes.
 2. Three hours later, a reinforced cleaning of the cabin is carried out with commercial products and gloves. The cabin is left unoccupied for 48 hours.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Polynesian maritime affairs directorate website :
<https://www.maritime.gov.pf> or www.service-public.pf/dpam
- Health Directorate Website: <https://www.service-public.pf/dsp/covid-19>

COVID 19 CALL CENTRE
Opening hours Mon/Fri 08:00 AM to 04:00 PM
Weekends 08:00 AM to 01:00 PM
Phone +689 40 455 000 - renseignements.COVID19@sante.gov.pf
- Direction du travail : <https://www.service-public.pf/trav/covid-19-entreprises-salaries-2/>