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சுகாதார அமைச்சு
MINISTRY OF HEALTH

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எனது இல) DGHS/COVID-19/347/2021
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Your No. :)

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திகதி) 2022.04.18
Date)

All Deputy Director Generals
Director, Quarantine
Chief Epidemiologist
Coordinator In Charge COVID-19 Operations of Ministry of Health
Provincial Directors of Health Services
Regional Directors of Health Services
Regional Epidemiologists
Medical Officers- Port Health Offices/Airports
Medical Officers of Health

COVID-19 preventive measures for operations related to seaports

The following Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) issued by Ministry of Health related to seaports are hereby cancelled.

- SOP 01- Operations of vessels calling Sri Lankan Ports
- SOP 02- Embarkation of Seafarers to Vessels
- SOP 03- Emergency Medical Disembarkation
- SOP 04- Disembarkation of Sri Lankan Crew from Vessels
- SOP 05- Bulk Crew Changes
- SOP 06- Onboard Essential Statutory Surveys
- SOP 07- Disembarkation of Foreign Crew from Vessels
- SOP 08- Setting-up and Maintenance of an Isolation Centers
- SOP 09- Transportation of Seafarers
- SOP 10- Foreign seafarers arriving by air
- SOP 11- Persons Getting Onboard
- SOP 12- Onboard Vendors and Stalls in the Port Premises
- SOP 13- Disembarkation of Sea Marshals
- SOP 14- Operations of offshore Crew Transit Hub
- SOP 15- Operations in oil tanker vessels
- SOP 16- Cruise ships calling at Sri Lankan ports
- DQ Mis 01- Ship Repairs at Colombo Dockyard

All persons including agents, seafarers, sea marshals, passengers and local staff involved in marine operations shall comply with the regulations, guidelines and other directions issued by the Ministry of Health.

1. Health clearance

- a. Every vessel shall obtain health clearance for berthing or for operations at OPL/Anchorage from respective Port Health Officer (PHO-Medical Officer of Port Health Office of Quarantine Unit)
- b. The master of the vessel should send the following to the Port Health Office via email / by hand at lease within 12-24 hours before the Estimated Time of Arrival (ETA) of the vessel

1. Health Status Report (HSR)
 2. Health Declaration Form (HDF)
 3. Maritime Declaration of Health
 4. Port of Call list
- c. After assessing the documents, PHO will send an email to the pilot station with the health clearance for the intended operation/ operations at OPL or anchorage
- d. PHO will grant the free pratique / restricted pratique while going through the documents/inspecting after boarding the vessel
- e. Health clearance should be taken from PHO for the disembarkation of seafarers, sea marshals and passengers. Immigration process should begin after the health clearance is granted

2. Transportation

- a. Crew members of barges / boats and other persons travelling in the barges / boats to facilitate the crew change should wear face mask and should take all precautions during the crew transfer process
- b. Vehicles to transport seafarers/sea marshals/passengers should be arranged by the agent.
- c. Sea marshal disembarkation involving weapon transport should be done under the monitoring of Sri Lanka Navy (SLN). All other persons do not require escort by SLN.

3. COVID-19 testing

- a. Testing and quarantine protocols for persons arriving via airports are applicable for persons arriving from seaports too (seafarers/sea marshals/passengers).
- b. Prior to arrival and on arrival COVID-19 test is not required for fully vaccinated persons who arrive after 14 days of completion of the recommended doses.
- c. Considering the practical situation, COVID-19 testing prior to arrival (72-hour PCR or 48-hour Rapid Antigen Test) is not mandatory for non-vaccinated/partially vaccinated persons. However, non-vaccinated/partially vaccinated persons should undergo the on arrival COVID 19 PCR/Rapid Antigen Test. Self-Antigen test reports are not allowed.
- d. On arrival testing can be done on board after arrival or at an isolation centre (IC) or safe and secure certified hotel.

4. Quarantine requirement

- a. There is no quarantine requirement for fully vaccinated persons who arrive after 14 days of completion of the recommended doses and persons with negative on arrival COVID-19 test result (PCR/RAT).

5. Persons who become COVID-19 positive

- a. They will be isolated. The isolation period depends on the existing guidelines of Ministry of Health.
- b. Sri Lankan Nationals will be sent home for isolation. Foreign nationals will be admitted to an approved private hospital or an Intermediate Care Centre managed by the private hospital.
- c. Tourists who are arriving via Safe and Secure Certified Hotel can isolate at the same hotel or Private hospital/Intermediate Care Centre providing care for COVID-19 patients.

- d. In such an event, Agent/In charge of IC should coordinate with relevant authorities and arrange to transfer of the patient.
- e. During the PCR tests done after arriving in Sri Lanka, if the COVID-19 PCR test CT value is >30, can be released without isolation.
- f. COVID-19 patients who are detected during the voyage will not be permitted to disembark.

6. Emergency Medical Disembarkation

- a. A request for an emergency disembarkation of crew members should reach the relevant Port Health Office via email. This should carry a formal request, a copy of the passport, Health Declaration Form (HDF), copies of documents related to the patient's health condition, medical log, radio medical advice notes etc
- b. Depending on the emergency, information can be conveyed to Port Health Officer (PHO) over the phone and documents can be sent at earliest
- c. The decision for granting health clearance for disembarkation will be taken case by case basis by the PHO who is the Proper Authority. Considering the health condition of the patient and the health risks to the community, PHO may accept or reject the request for disembarkation as per their judgmental decision
- d. The patient can be sent to a government hospital (for Sri Lankan Nationals) or an approved private hospital by an ambulance for treatment. However, an email/letter indicating 'agree to accept the patient' should be sent by the intended private hospital to the PHO. This should be coordinated by the agent of the vessel. Agent should arrange an ambulance with the permission of PHO
- e. If the patient is fully vaccinated can be discharged from the hospital without PCR/RAT. If not vaccinated/ partially vaccinated, should do COVID-19 test (PCR/RAT) and with a negative report patient can be discharged.
- f. If COVID-19 is detected in the hospital, they will be isolated as per the general guidelines of Ministry of Health

7. Bulk Crew Transfers

- a. If the foreign seafarers/ sea marshals intended to embark/ disembark a vessel are fully vaccinated, there is no need to operate as bulk crew transfers.
- b. If the foreign seafarers/ sea marshals intended to embark/ disembark under bulk crew transfer are unvaccinated/ partially vaccinated, Shipping Agents should submit the request letter to the Port Health Officer for health approval 72 hours prior to the intended operation.
- c. Every unvaccinated/ partially vaccinated on-signer should have a negative COVID-19 test report (72-hour PCR / 48-hour Rapid Antigen Test report) done prior to boarding the flight arriving in Sri Lanka. Agent should made available the reports to Port Health Officer (PHO) prior to their landing in Sri Lanka with the passport copies and completed Health Declaration Forms (HDF).
- d. The vessels should obtain the routine health clearance for berthing or for the operations at anchorage/ OPL by submitting necessary documents to the relevant Port Health Office
- e. Since the seafarers are directly transferred from airport to the vessel and vice versa, they are exempted from Day One (On Arrival) PCR testing conducted at the Points of Entry
- f. Both on-signers and off-signers should fill the relevant health forms (HDF/HCF) and submit to the Port Health Office prior to their arrival

- g. All crew members and local staff involved in operation should wear face masks during the entire period of crew changing process
- h. Timing of chartered flight and the vessels should be coordinated in such a way that enabling on-signers are directly transferred from the Airport to the seaport and off-signers directly to the airport from the seaport

8. Health clearance to issue shore passes

- a. Health clearance can be given by the PHO for fully vaccinated Seafarers/Sea Marshals/Passengers to get the shore passes from relevant authorities.
- b. If not fully vaccinated, should produce a negative COVID-19 test report (PCR done within 72-hours/RAT done within 48-hours) to obtain health clearance for shore passes. Self-Antigen test reports are not allowed.

9. General measures

- a. All Seafarers/Sea Marshals/ Passengers who have obtained COVID-19 vaccines should carry a proof of vaccination in English language throughout their travel.
- b. All the Seafarers/Sea Marshals/ Passengers who have a past history of COVID-19 infection should disembark after 7 days of onset of infection
- c. Setting up and maintenance of Isolation Centres (IC) for seafarers/sea marshals should be done with the guidance and approval of the Quarantine Unit and other relevant authorities. Should be operated under the supervision and monitoring of area Medical Officer of Health (MOH)
- d. In addition to this guideline, existing Ministry of Health guidelines related to persons arriving to Sri Lanka from overseas are applicable to Seafarers/Sea Marshals/Passengers.

This guideline is effective from 18th of April 2022 and will be applicable for persons who have already arrived in Sri Lanka.

Director General of Health Services / Director Quarantine as the Proper Authorities under the Quarantine and Prevention of Disease Ordinance No. 03 of 1897 or any other Proper Authority in the port under the same ordinance has the powers to take judgmental decisions at any time for the best interest on prevention and control of diseases.


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Copies:

Secretary, Ministry of Health
Secretary, Foreign Ministry
Secretary, Ministry of Défense
Secretary, Ministry of Tourism
Additional Secretary (Public Health Services /Medical Services)
Inspector General of Police
Controller General, Department of Immigration and Emigration
Director General, Sri Lanka Customs
Director General, Civil Aviation Authority of Sri Lanka
Director General, Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority
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Chairman, Airport Aviation Services (Sri Lanka) Limited