**Actions taken by**

**Jordan Maritime Commission**

**For prevention of COVID-19**

**For all workers in the maritime transport sector**

**In the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and**

**onboard ships flying the Jordanian flag for 2020**



**Introduction**

In light of facing the spread of Corona Virus (COVID-19), with a response to the national requirements by the compliance with the National Defense Law. On the other hand, in response to the international requirements especially the International Maritime Organization (Circular Letter No. 4204 / Add.3) which issued on March 2, 2020. Jordan Maritime Commission raising the state of alert by adopting and imposing all precautionary measures to keep the safety and efficiency of the maritime sector in the Aqaba port system, they are as follows:

**Firstly: The procedures imposed on ships enter the port of Aqaba:**

Jordan Maritime Commission imposed on all ships that enter the Jordanian territorial waster to adhere to the precautionary measures to prevent the entry of Corona Virus (COVID-19) into Jordan, as follows:

1. All ships must provide health safety equipment (gags, medical gloves, shoe covers) on board and for all seafarers.
2. Jordan Maritime Commission should be provided with a report including the name of the ports through which the ship passed before it arrives the port of Aqaba, and the Jordanian Maritime Commission must verify the path of the ship and the ports it passed through (especially those ports in the countries where the disease has spread).
3. The ship's captain must periodically verify that there are no infected or suspected cases onboard.
4. Conducting a sensory examination on the treatment rooms, cabinet and medication on board the ship to ensure its suitability and ability to absorb health conditions if necessary.
5. Checking all the crewmembers of the ship and checking their health condition in case that any of them is suspected to be infected by the virus during the ship's voyage.
6. In case that the ship's captain informs of a medical condition or a suspected case of Coronavirus, the case shall be isolated immediately and the Aqaba Health Directorate shall be notified and necessary health measures should be taken.
7. In case of suspicion of unreported cases, the ship's captain should report immediately and under penalty of responsibility, and not to contact with any suspected or confirmed infected case.
8. Not to allow the crew of the ship to disembark on the berths.
9. Do not allow waste to be sent to the port.

**Second: The procedures applied to companies engaged in activities in the marine sector, and berths operators:**

The Jordan Maritime Commission held immediate and urgent meetings with all of its stakeholders in the maritime sector and obligated all operators of berths, port facilities and companies operating in the maritime sector, including sterilization, supply companies, to comply with the following instructions:

1. All ships Agents and berths operators are obligated to wear protective clothing, safety goggles, masks, and medical gloves with the use of hand sanitizers and adhere to the use of a Mobile heat detector.
2. Defining and restricting the places that require direct contact between the ships crew and the related employees whose their work requires getting onboard the ships for the purpose of sterilizing them and in the shortest time possible without causing any delay in handling the goods.
3. Obliging companies to impose all their employees whose work requires getting onboard ships to wear appropriate safety and protective clothing that are capable of preventing infection and causing the spread of the virus.
4. Sterilization companies should adhere to the price ceilings for sterilization operations and not exceed a maximum of (500) JD, despite the high prices of sterilization materials from the suppliers.
5. Obliging all shipping agencies, through the Jordan Shipping Association, to respond and cooperate in order to sterilize the places to be sterilized.

**Third: The measures imposed on ships flying the Jordanian flag:**

On the level of ships flying the Jordanian flag, Jordan Maritime Commission called upon to send the circular official letter to all ships flying the Jordanian flag and providing them with guidance in line with the circular guidance issued by the International Maritime Organization (IMO).

Where Jordan Maritime Commission called to raise the awareness to consider that the hand hygiene and respiratory system are considered the most important, the seafarers should adhere to and follow the instructions issued by the Jordan Maritime Commission and the International Maritime Organization, as follows:

* **Seafarers' Guidelines:**

1. To oblige seafarers onboard ships to take all precautions to protect against the Coronavirus in various ways, such as washing hands frequently by the crew using soap, warm water or alcohol.
2. If hands touch the contaminated surfaces, the seafarers should avoid touching the face, including the mouth, nose, and eyes, with unwashed hands.
3. Direct the seafarers to cover their nose and mouth with a tissue that can be disposed of after sneezing, coughing, wiping, and puffing, and then get rid of it. In the absence of the tissues, it should be in the elbow in a folded position.
4. Seafarers must maintain a distance of at least one and a half meters (5 feet) with other people, especially people coughing or sneezing.
5. Meat, milk or animal products should always be handled with care, and avoid cross-contamination with uncooked foods, in line with good food safety practices.

* **Ship Operator Guidelines:**

1. Develop a written plan to manage the outbreak and circulate it to seafarers, and it must be implemented as required.
2. Use the Corona Virus Guidance (COVID-19) Manual for Ship Operators to protect the health of seafarers from the International Maritime Organization.
3. Provide guidance to the crew on how to recognize the signs and symptoms of the Coronavirus, and the crew should be reminded of the plan and procedures to follow if any signs and symptoms of respiratory diseases appear.
4. Submit the reports to the next port of arrival in case of suspicious cases onboard.
5. Commitment to cleaning, disinfection, sterilization and proper waste management procedures onboard.
6. Follow the procedures of the World Health Organization regarding isolation procedures, moreover, how to deal with any suspected or confirmed infected case.
7. Placing posters on board the vessel to raise awareness of the methods of protection for seafarers and the protection of themselves:



|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  |

**Third: instructions for Jordan Maritime Commission staff:**

Regarding Jordan Maritime Commission's staff within the building of Jordan Maritime Commission, imposed the following procedures and obliged the employees to follow the national instructions issued by the Jordanian Maritime Authority and the Jordanian Ministry of Health, as follows:

1. Raise staff awareness by publishing an awareness video on the hanging screen at the entrance in the building, which includes a mechanism to prevent coronavirus spread.
2. JMC has defined the waiting area in the building as a restricted area to keep the customers in it and prevent them to contact directly with the employees to avoid the spread of the disease.
3. JMC has appointed only two employees to deal with the customers, to receive their applications, which are designated for the purpose of obtaining the service usually. Moreover, to complete the procedures until the end of the service.
4. Require all JMC employees whose their work requires getting onboard ships, (ship inspectors including the Pratique Department and the Port State Control) to wear protective and safety clothing (in addition to medical gloves, gags). Moreover, to maintain a distance of one and a half meters (5 feet) at least with other people and not to contact directly with the crew or any people coughing or sneezing.
5. All JMC's employees are obligated to wear protective gloves and medical gloves that have been given by the Jordan Maritime Commission.
6. Maintaining a safe distance (5 feet) between the employees and the customers, in the case of dealing directly with them.
7. Monitoring the health status of all JMC employees by directors of directorates and the heads of departments.
8. Measuring the temperature through a manual thermal scanner for all JMC's employees.
9. The cleaning company contracted with JMC should use dedicated alcohol sterilizers to clean surfaces and floors throughout the day, and day by day, while disposing of waste in a safe manner.
10. JMC takes the necessary measures immediately to comply with the National Defense Law and the provisions issued pursuant to it and to what is required by the public interest, as it initiated the following:
    * To facilitate the movement of employees of companies operating in the maritime sector and not causing a delay in ships especially, handling the goods in the port of Aqaba, the logo of the Jordan Maritime Commission has been considered to sticking on all cars that belonging to these companies, and allowed to move easily during the lockdown period.
    * Prevent cruise ships to enter the territorial water as of March 10, 2020, and just only allow to the cargo ships .

**With regards**

**Jordan Maritime Commission**