

Update on the outbreak of the Novel Coronavirus

China and countries around the world try to avoid the spread of the Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) that has killed more than 100 people and infected at least 4,500 people. The virus was discovered in Wuhan, China, but quickly spread to other cities including the ports of Guangzhou, Ningbo, Qingdao, Shanghai, Tianjin, Dalian and Shenzhen. Cases have also been reported outside China in 14 different countries.

Infection and typical symptoms of the Novel Coronavirus

Authorities have confirmed that the Novel Coronavirus will most commonly transmit from an infected person to others via:

- The air by coughing and sneezing.
- Close personal contact, such as touching or shaking hands.
- Touching an object or surface with the virus on it, then touching your mouth, nose, or eyes before washing your hands.

The Novel Coronavirus is a new strain of virus that has not been previously identified in humans. The symptoms include fever, cough, difficulty in breathing and fatigue. Severe complications, including pneumonia and kidney failure are possible. The incubation period can range from two to 14 days.

Recommendations

MS Amlin advises shipowners and charterers to take precautions and measures to prevent the risks of spreading the Novel Coronavirus when calling at Chinese ports, such as:

- Alerting the authorities in the event the Novel Coronavirus is suspected on board, taking precautions to reduce the possibility of the spread of any virus.
- The vessels visiting Chinese ports are suggested to minimize interpersonal exchanges with people from ashore as much as possible.
- Crew members are advised to avoid close contact with people suffering from acute respiratory infections.
- Crew members should be aware of personal hygiene, including more frequent handwashing with soap and running water.
- Disembarking the vessel only when absolutely necessary.
- Thoroughly cook meat and eggs.
- Avoid unprotected contact with animals.

Furthermore, we advise to follow the updates of the WHO, which can be found on this website:

<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>

This information is meant for guidance only. Should you require more information or assistance, please feel free to contact our Client Services Desk: ClientServicesDesk@msamlin.com

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