

Dealing with ship visitors and social distancing

COVID-19, which causes respiratory illness, is spread through small droplets from the nose or mouth of an infected person. These droplets may be inhaled or may land on objects and surfaces which other people touch, after which they touch their eyes, nose or mouth.



THERE ARE TWO MAIN WAYS OF PROTECTING YOURSELF FROM INFECTION:

- To avoid inhalation, social distancing is advised – a distance of at least 1 metre is recommended by the WHO.
- Better hygiene, such as frequent and thorough hand washing, keeping contact surfaces clean, and less face-touching can help prevent picking up the infection via touching a surface.

Many ports have taken steps to reduce physical contact, but port officials, stevedores, bunker suppliers and other visitors will inevitably visit the ship. Here are some helpful hints on dealing with visitors and how to stay safe.



PREPARING FOR VISITORS

- Wipe down with an anti-bacterial solution the areas where the visitor(s) will access and objects they are likely to touch (e.g. sanitise the bridge contact surfaces prior to pilot embarkation).
- Restrict access into the ship's accommodation – keeps doors locked and post signs warning of no entry.
- If you have alcohol hand gel on board, make it ready for use upon entry onto the ship and around the vessel.
- Where possible, have designated toilet and handwashing facilities for visitors – make sure they are well-stocked with soap.
- Try to prepare and complete any necessary documents digitally – avoid handling paper and laminated documents as far as possible.
- Have PPE readily available, such as disposable gloves, for use in unavoidable close contact situations.



KEEP YOUR GUARD UP

- Maintain effective ship and gangway security and ensure unauthorised personnel do not board the vessel.
- If someone trying to board the vessel exhibits symptoms – refuse access and report it.
- Continue to sanitise contact areas throughout the vessel's stay in port.

Dealing with ship visitors and social distancing (cont).



KEEP YOUR DISTANCE

- No handshakes and no physical contact!
- Try to maintain your distance from visitors – official guidance on minimum distance varies from 1 metre (3 feet) to 2 metres (6 feet).



TAKE IT OUTSIDE

- Where possible, hold your conversations and meetings with visitors on the open deck or open bridge wings.
- If visitors must be inside, limit the number of crew in the vicinity to the absolute minimum.

STAY INFORMED

Get the latest advice on safety ashore from the port agent – there may be restrictions on access to and from the vessel as well as PPE requirements.

Visit North's dedicated COVID-19 website area at: www.nepia.com/topics/covid-19-coronavirus/ for more information.

North Members can access up-to-date information on outbreak status as well as port and country restrictions at MyGlobeview at www.nepia.com/members-area/globeview

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