



MARINE SAFETY INFORMATION BULLETIN 005-03
May 5, 2003
Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome, (SARS)
Awareness/Notifications

U. S. Public Health Service Foreign Quarantine Regulations, Title 42 Code of Federal Regulations Part 71 (42 CFR 71), require the master of a ship destined for a U. S. port to immediately report to the nearest quarantine station, any death or illness onboard a vessel, when it occurs within 15 days of either arrival or departure from a U. S. port. The purpose of this MSIB is to reemphasize this requirement, and to request vessel agents' assistance in coordinating mandatory reporting requirement as it relates to SARS.

SARS is a newly emerging and potentially fatal respiratory disease that is primarily occurring in the People's Republic of China (mainland China and Hong Kong Special Administrative Region); Hanoi, Vietnam; Singapore; and Toronto, Canada. This serious disease syndrome often leads to pneumonia and sometimes causes death.

Therefore, it is requested that the master of each commercial vessel arriving at a U. S. port working through their agent, review the following criteria relating to the health status of their crew.

SARS CRITERIA:

Respiratory illness of unknown cause since February 1, 2003, and the following criteria:

- ❑ Measured temperature greater than 100.4°F (greater than 38°C) **AND**
- ❑ One or more clinical findings of respiratory illness (e.g., cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, or hypoxia) **AND**
- ❑ Travel within 10 days of onset of symptoms to an area with documented or suspected community transmission of SARS (People's Republic of China (i.e., mainland China and Hong Kong Special Administrative Region); Hanoi, Vietnam; Singapore; and Toronto, Canada). **OR**
- ❑ Close contact within 10 days of onset of symptoms with a person known to be a suspect SARS case.

If there are ill crew aboard meeting the above SARS criteria, the master must submit a report via facsimile to the Public Health Quarantine Station at (305) 215-2285 as required by 42 CFR 71. In addition, the information shown on the enclosed "Ill Crewmember Information" sheet should be sent to this office by fax at (713) 671-5185 (Houston) or Marine Safety Unit Galveston at (409) 766-5416 no more than 12 hrs prior to vessel's scheduled arrival at the sea buoy. The information is critical to performing a timely assessment of the situation and in determining appropriate measures to be implemented.

If there are no crewmembers on board your vessel exhibiting signs of the SARS virus, it is not necessary to respond to this request.

If you have further questions, please contact MSO Houston-Galveston Merchant Vessel Safety and Security Department at (713) 671-5184.

For more SARS information, see:

- ❑ most recent SARS definition: www.cdc.gov/ncidod/sars/casedefinition.htm
- ❑ Advisories: www.cdc.gov

KEVIN S. COOK
Captain, U.S. Coast Guard
Captain of the Port

Enclosure: Ill Crewmember Information Form

III CREWMEMBER INFORMATION

VESSEL NAME:

CREW MEMBER NAME:

NATIONALITY:

PLACE AND DATE EMBARKED:

LAST FIVE PORTS VISITED WITH DATES:

COUNTRIES VISITED PRIOR TO EMBARKATION:

SYMPTOMS EXHIBITED: (Circle all that apply)

TEMPERATURE GREATER THAN 100.4F (38C)
COUGH
SHORTNESS OF BREATH
DIFFICULTY BREATHING
HYPOXIA: a deficiency of oxygen in blood and/or in the tissues.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

PLEASE FAX TO MSO HOUSTON-GALVESTON OR MSU GALVESTON:

HOUSTON: (713)671-5185

GALVESTON: (409) 766-5416

CDC Public Health Quarantine Station: (310)215-2285