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Protocols and Recommendations

Utilize pre-travel screening tool to ensure sick crew do not travel to the ship for boarding

Utilize the pre-screening questionnaire at the port before any crew members, contractors, vendors or guests board the ship. Any person who has clinical symptoms and answers yes to any of the travel questions should also be reported to local health authorities immediately for testing for COVID-19. Whoever interviews that individual may also require quarantine and should not go back on the ship. The person doing the screening should be the same individual in each port who is also familiar with the questionnaire.

The goal is not to allow COVID-19 to be introduced onto the ship which is why the screening should be done prior to the gangway.

Crewmembers should be reminded at boarding of proper sanitation procedures including frequent handwashing and that the ship has access to remote medical advice through Future Care if they become ill.

Crewmembers developing symptoms of respiratory illness after boarding:

Crew member should be immediately isolated in a cabin and asked to wear a facemask when being interviewed and when moving out of their cabin.

The Captain or Chief Medical Officer should then administer the "Case under Suspicion" questionnaire while maintaining a distance of greater than 6 feet (2 meters) from the crew member under investigation. Gloves and a mask should be worn while obtaining the crew members temperature, pulse and blood pressure.

Future Care should then be contacted and presented all of the pertinent information including vital signs, symptoms and duration, travel history, other medical conditions, and smoking history as per the form.

Future care will then inform the Captain whether they believe the person to require further investigation, reporting to authorities, testing for COVID-19 and quarantine.

Future Care will then advise on what other actions need to be taken regarding other crew members and advise on the medical care of the sick crewmember. Individuals developing severe respiratory symptoms or complications may require disembarkation and hospitalization.

Methods of isolating sick crew member and feeding and supporting them as needed without physical or close contact should be developed in advance.

Policies for investigation, testing, quarantine and medical management as well as isolation and quarantine of other crewmembers or the entire ship for up to 14 days will be dependent of the physical location of the ship and nearest appropriate facilities.

END