

HANDLING OF VESSELS/CREW FROM CORONA VIRUS RISK AREAS

BY PORT HEALTH OFFICERS

This is to inform all Shipping Agent, KPA, KMA, Government Agencies and all port users that all vessels coming to Kenya from Corona Virus infection risk areas are treated as suspect therefore all shipping agents are requested to send in advance all the boarding documents and any additional information concerning the health status of the crew or passengers on board in advance for the purpose of planning.

In case a vessel is arriving directly from China or any of the risk area especially Middle East countries, then the crew or passengers on board are treated as contacts, therefore arrangement shall be made so as to board the vessel at high seas to establish the health status of the crew and subject the same to surveillance for a number of days equal to the incubation period of infection which ranges from 2-14 days before the vessel is allowed into the port.

In an event the captain of the vessel raises an alarm that one or more of the crew/passengers are sick, dead or presenting abnormal sign and symptoms like those of corona virus/haemorrhagic fever then the vessel shall be boarded at high seas to establish the nature of the disease or death respectively before KPA pilot boards to enter the vessel into the port.

In case a suspected case is detected on board, the vessel shall be kept under surveillance for a number of days equal to the incubation period (14 days) with no embarking or disembarking into and from the vessel respectively. The suspected case will be transferred to Coast General referral hospital for the purpose of isolation, tests and management.

In case of a confirmed case (corona virus) on board, the vessel may be returned back to where it came from or kept under quarantine while treating the case on board to prevent spread of the infection. (This depends largely on advice by the Cabinet Secretary, MOH).

Signs and symptoms

- Respiratory symptoms
- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficult breathing

In severe cases

- Pneumonia
- SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome)
- Kidney failure
- Death

Prevention human to human

- Covering mouth and nose