

## Operation of ports in Costa Rica during the COVID-19 national emergency

The world is undergoing great change as a result of the COVID-19 health emergency. This, without any doubt, also has a great impact on international trade. Costa Rica is no exception, on March 16, 2020, through the Executive Decree N.º 42227-MP-S, declared a state of national emergency nationwide, due to the health emergency caused by the COVID-19 disease.

As a result of this declaration of emergency, the Government has taken a series of sanitary measures to avoid as much as possible the affectation of this pandemic. One of these measures is the issuance of the “National Emergency Care Protocol by COVID-19, in Air, Sea and Land Migratory Border Ports”, which the main objective of this instrument is to regulate the care process for users of migratory services. Through Executive Decree N.º 42238-MGP-S, the government announced further border measures, one of which is the restriction of entry of non-nationals or non-residents of the country, as well as the application of quarantine measures to nationals and residents who enter. **The only exception to these measures is the transportation of land, air, sea cargo and its crews.**

During Holy Week, the government issued a series of additional measures to mitigate the increase in infections. Some of these measures are:

- Decree N.º 78-S Operation of public institutions during Easter: all public officials must work during Easter, including those who provide services in ports.
- DM-RM-0865-2020 Resolution of the Ministry of Health on the closure of establishments with sanitary permission to operate with attention to the face-to-face public.

Regarding the port operation in Costa Rica, both the Caldera Port and the Moín Container Terminal (TCM) maintain their work operation with absolute normality. In addition to the above, both ports are being extra cautious with cleaning.

The concessionaires have implemented protocols, measures and actions aimed at complying with the guidelines issued by the health authorities at dealing with and containing the impact of COVID-19 on the population. An example of this is that the administration of Caldera Port published a Service Protocol which includes a series of guidelines for the care of ships before, during and after arrival, preventive and reactive actions to detect suspicious cases, as well as the control of people in the terminal. In addition, the Ministry of Foreign Trade presented to the General Directorate of Migration and Immigration a proposal for a special protocol for attention to the crew for the Atlantic Ports.

As to the Ports operated by the Board of Administration and Economic Development of the Atlantic Slope (known in Costa Rica as JAPDEVA) since it did make changes in the schedule change at the Port Gastón Kogan Kogan for the reception and dispatch of commodities. In accordance with the new schedule, the closing of operations would take place at 4:00 p.m. However, the Administration expressed that depending on special cases, the Operations Department will have flexibility to operate at different times, in order to avoid problems in the movement of goods.

Ports of Costa Rica	
TCM	The Port Operations regularly works from Monday to Friday 24 hours, in the same way as the Public Force, Drug Control Police and Migration



	Police. For its part, the Customs Services, Phytosanitary Service, and Animal Health Service, will work from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Port of Caldera	<p>The Port Operations regularly works from Monday to Friday 24 hours, in the same way as the Public Force, Drug Control Police and Migration Police. For its part, the Customs Services, Phytosanitary Service, and Animal Health Service, they work from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.</p> <p>Additionally, the following preventive actions are being taken:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Two hours before the arrival of the ship, the shipping company will consult you on the status of all the crew.</li><li>- With the negative report of the cases we proceed to:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-Previous origin report (last two weeks)</li><li>-Report of health status of the crew to the SPC.</li><li>-Crew departure conditions (health control).</li></ul></li><li>- If there are positive cases, the operation of the ship is stopped, containing the ship. The entry of people to the ship is restricted, responsibility for the situation is assumed by the responsibilities and the MOPT issues instructions regarding the need to change the level of protection of the port facility.</li></ul>
JAPDEVA	<p>The Port Operations regularly works from Monday to Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. in the same way as the Customs Service, Phytosanitary Service, and Animal Health Service. For its part, the Public Force, Drug Control Police and Migration Police, will work 24 hours.</p> <p>Additionally, the following preventive actions are being taken:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Two hours before the arrival of the ship, the shipping company will consult you on the status of all the crew.</li><li>- With the negative report of the cases we proceed to:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-Previous origin report (last two weeks).</li><li>-Report of health status of the crew to the JAPDEVA.</li><li>-Crew departure conditions (health control).</li></ul></li><li>- If there are positive cases, the operation of the ship is stopped, containing the ship. The entry of people to the ship is restricted, responsibility for the situation is assumed by the responsibilities and the MOPT issues instructions regarding the need to change the level of protection of the port facility.</li></ul>