



U.S. Coast Guard Sector Jacksonville

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MARINE SAFETY INFORMATION BULLETIN (MSIB) 13-09

May 1, 2009

H1N1 INFLUENZA VIRUS

In response to recent outbreaks of swine influenza virus cases in the United States and Mexico, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has declared a Public Health Emergency. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the World Health Organization have released advisories to help increase public awareness (see www.cdc.gov). As such, in an effort to increase awareness and protection measure for personnel working within the maritime environment, all vessels crews, owners, operators, agents are requested to maintain a heightened state of awareness and pay special attention to health conditions of all crewmembers.

This bulletin does not modify or supersede the requirements of U. S. Public Health Service Foreign Quarantine Regulation, Title 42 Code of Federal Regulations Part 71 (Title 42 CFR 71), which require the master of a ship destined for a U. S. port to report immediately to the quarantine station the occurrence, on board, of any death or any ill person (including those who have disembarked or have been removed) during the 15 day period preceding the date of expected arrival or during the period since departure from a U. S. port, whichever period of time is shorter.

I have taken several measures to aid in evaluating and successfully mitigating the potential H1N1 Influenza Virus risk a vessel may present to the local maritime community. Among these are pre-boarding queries intended to ensure Coast Guard personnel do not board vessels until we are sure that either no crewmember exhibits H1N1 Influenza Virus symptoms, or that Coast Guard boarding teams are equipped to conduct safety and/or security boardings in a way that minimizes exposure.

Accordingly, I request that the master of each commercial vessel intending to arrive in the Captain of the Port Jacksonville zone to provide a written statement (see enclosure) to this office no more than 96 hours in advance and 24 hours (for changes) prior the vessel's scheduled arrival at the sea buoy attesting to the health status of the crew. Should the master's statement identify ill crewmembers, we will work with the local public health authorities to determine whether or not the symptoms are consistent with HINI Influenza Virus and implement appropriate mitigating measures. Your help in this endeavor is critical in order to minimize any potential negative impact on the flow of commerce within the port and protect the health of our local maritime community at the same time.

General H1N1 Influenza Virus symptoms and information:

1. Symptoms may include: Fever, cough, sore throat, body aches, headache, chills and fatigue.
2. Severe symptoms may include: pneumonia and respiratory failure and death. H1N1 virus may cause a worsening of underlying chronic medical conditions.
3. The disease is spread primarily through: Person to person through coughing or sneezing of people with the H1N1 influenza virus. Sometimes people may become infected by touching something with flu viruses on it and then touching their mouth or nose.
4. The incubation period may be: Infected people may be able to infect others beginning 1 day before symptoms develop and up to 7 or more days after becoming sick. That means that you may be able to pass on the flu to someone else before you know you are sick, as well as while you are sick.
5. Other information: First and most important: wash your hands. Try to stay in good general health. Get plenty of sleep, be physically active, manage your stress, drink plenty of fluids, and eat nutritious food. Try not touch surfaces that may be contaminated with the flu virus.
6. Avoid close contact with people who are sick.

If there **are** ill crewmembers aboard, the master **must** submit a report via facsimile to the CDC quarantine station in Miami, FL at (305) 526-2798 as required by Title 42 CFR 71. In addition, the enclosed HINI Influenza virus questionnaire **should** be completed and submitted to this office via facsimile at (904) 564-7519. The information will be critical to performing a timely assessment of the situation and in determining appropriate measures to be implemented.

If you have any questions, please contact the Sector Jackson Command Duty officer at the above phone number.



PAUL F. THOMAS
Captain, U. S. Coast Guard
Captain of the Port Jacksonville, FL

U.S. Department of
Homeland Security
United States
Coast Guard



Commander
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H1N1 INFLUENZA VIRUS QUESTIONNAIRE

****Fax to (904) 564-7519****

VESSEL NAME: _____ **IMO #** _____

Crewmembers do not exhibit any symptoms consistent with (DISEASE).

(If a crewmember displays symptoms of the (DISEASE), complete the following information)

CREWMEMBER NAME: _____

NATIONALITY: _____

PLACE AND DATE EMBARKED: _____

LAST FIVE PORTS VISITED WITH DATES:

COUNTRIES VISITED PRIOR TO EMBARKATION:

SYMPTOMS EXHIBITED: (Circle all that apply)

Fever (greater than 100F or 37.8C)

Chills

Cough

Fatigue

Sore throat

Diarrhea

Headache and body aches

Vomiting

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

