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DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

April 23, 2020

Coronavirus, COVID-19

On 31th January 2020, the Ministry of Public Health, the Dominican Port Authority (APORDOM) and the Specialized Body for Port Security (CESEP) announce the start for the application of security and surveillance protocols in all ports, with preventive measures to avoid the entry of elements or cases of COVID-19 contagion.

Among the measures to be followed immediately, they indicated that all personnel receiving the vessels must be protected with masks and gloves, and if a case of suspicion is detected, they must rigorously wear the appropriate clothing to board the vessel and keep the vessel at anchorage, that is, at a place in the port.

While personnel working in ports and docks should maintain frequent hand washing, with soap and water; when sneezing or coughing they should cover their mouth and nose with their forearm or handkerchief, while avoiding close contact with people who have symptoms of flu or cold.

Furthermore, the Ministry of Public Health issued the Resolution number 0000003/2020, dated 6th February 2020, in which instructs the Dominican Port Authority (APORDOM) to coordinate with all vessels traveling to the Dominican Republic that, in the event of detecting a passenger or crew member presenting symptoms or signs of the COVID-19 disease, they must immediately notify the corresponding port authority so that the health personnel of this Ministry, located in the ports, can activate the established health protocol.

A ship that requests authorization to dock in a Dominican Port and that ship has been at some point with a point of origin in China or that has touched before arriving in DR to some Port of a city where the virus is, the protocol is activated and the captain of the ship is contacted to send the health certificate of the crew members to verify if there is any case of COVID-19.

On 14th March 2020, according to the preventive measures taken by the Dominican government against COVID-19, the Dominican Port Authority (APORDOM) ordered the suspension of all docking and disembarking operations of cruise ships in the ports of the Dominican Republic until further notice. As for cargo operations, the Executive Director of APORDOM, Mr. Victor Gomez Casanova, reported that they will maintain their operations,



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but under the strictest supervision and in full compliance with the protocol issued by the Ministry of Public Health.

Moreover, the Dominican government suspended all flights inbound and outbound between the Dominican Republic and Europe, China, South Korea and Iran for the period of 30 days. A quarantine requirement is being imposed for visitors who have been in any of the above listed countries during the previous two weeks. At this moment, the government have carried various ferry flights for foreign people that are still stranded in Dominican territory in order to return them to their countries and to avoid the expand of the outbreak of COVID-19 within the Dominican Republic.

On 19th March 2020, the Dominican government declared the state of urgency throughout the national territory for a period of one (1) month, to fight against the pandemic of Coronavirus (COVID-19), which includes a mandatory social isolation / quarantine, will be in place, in principle, until 13th April.

In reference to the state of urgency throughout the national territory for a period of one (1) month, to fight against the pandemic of Coronavirus (COVID-19), on 20th March 2020 the Dominican government established the curfew until further notice, from 8:00 P.M. until 5:00 A.M. throughout the country. However, on 27th March 2020, the government extended the curfew from 5:00 P.M. until 6:00 A.M.

On 13th April 2020, the Dominican government dictated Decree 148-20 in which extended the state of urgency for 17 days throughout the national territory, in principle, until 30th April 2020. However, it is expected that after 30th April restrictions will continue in place and would be lifted gradually, depending on the developments of the spread.

The Dominican government has considered that those activities which are urgent to enable international trade are exempted, therefore, ports and ships remain operating. In principle, all merchant ships calling Dominican ports must present specific pre-arrival information (at least 48 hours in advance and updated within 6 hours of arrival) including the last 10 ports called, crew changes, ship's medical book, crew temperature records among others.

Also, as a first preventive measure, once the ship berthed at the port, the Specialized Body for Port Security (CESEP) send a team of military doctors, which aboard the ship, in order to examine the health conditions of the crew. In case these doctors find a suspect case of a crewmember with the symptoms of the COVID-19 disease, they proceed to evaluate the case



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in order to perform the laboratory test and, if needed, to disembark the crewmember from the ship to a health care facility for the medical attention and also take all the measures to prevent the infection of the crew aboard the ship.

We know that local authorities are focused to protect their nationals, nonetheless, we also understand that we must make them aware of the importance of preserving and assisting the crew of cargo ships coming to our country. Keep in mind, the authorities evaluate on a case by case basis, since there is no protocol for the attention of the crewmembers during the COVID-19 pandemic in the Dominican Republic.

In that sense, in collaboration with Don Tito Mella Foundation, we have drafted a formal request to the Dominican authorities to establish a protocol to disembark ill crewmembers during the coronavirus crisis. Moreover, we have prepared a draft of said protocol to be presented to local authorities for their review and approval.

Continuous efforts continue have been made to establish such protocol at the national level, in all ports. So far, we have managed from the authorities them to agree to examine on a case-by-case basis, nevertheless the main goal is to establish the protocol by the national authorities, especially from the Ministry of Public Health and the Dominican Port Authority (APORDOM).

Nevertheless, we strongly recommend that all crew must stay on board.

In another note, on the 15th April 2020, the General Direction of Customs (DGA) issued a Notice of the extension of dispatch hours at the ports of Caucedo, Haina and Santo Domingo during the Emergency Period due to the outbreak of COVID-19. Said notice indicates in order to facilitate the chain of clearance of goods in ports, the DGA inform that the schedule for these purposes will be as follows: Port of Caucedo and Rio Haina, 7:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M. and the Port of Santo Domingo, 8:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M.

Although the transport of goods is not included in the curfew schedule established by the Dominican government, as part of the guarantee of the supply chain, the authorities take the necessary precautionary measures to encourage the free transit of those involved in these tasks while they carry out the corresponding tasks, according to the Notice issued by the DGA.

However, it is suggested to take advantage of the early schedule to avoid unnecessary delays and inconveniences.



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This measure begins in force this Thursday, April 16 in Rio Haina and Friday, April 17 in Caucedo and Santo Domingo.

Finally, at the moment, there are 5,044 cases, 245 death and 463 people in recovery due to the COVID-19.

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