

## Issues relating to coronavirus management

Safety Flash Published on 23 February 2021 Generated on 17 January 2025 IMCA SF 06/21

A Member has shared a number of issues relating to the Coronavirus pandemic.

### Covid-19 confirmed case on the vessel

A vessel assigned employee approached the vessel clinic with a high temperature and other COVID-19 related symptoms. The person was quarantined and a swab test performed with results confirmed as COVID-19 positive. They were then medevaced ashore.

The vessel was quarantined and further monitoring revealed three more positive cases onboard within next 10 days. All these affected personnel recovered.

The vessel, after disinfection and with new crew, is back in operation.

Our Member noted that:

- Vessel was under company and client quarantine regime with clear red & green zones segregation and monitoring controls in place. The positive case was identified after 8 days of quarantine in a hotel and on the 25th day onboard the vessel. In spite of all the above it is obvious that quarantine and prevention procedures failed at some stage and thus contamination occurred.
- Site visits revealed several cases of wearing non-medical masks by crew and client representatives.

### Safe disposal of face masks

One of the PPE requirements to combat the spread of COVID-19 is the use of masks, because it is an efficient means of protecting ourselves and others. This has significantly increased demand and production of single-use surgical masks all over the world. However, it is also important that safe disposal of COVID-19 masks is taken into consideration.

- Face masks can take centuries to break down, thus having a profound negative impact for marine wildlife and ecosystems.
- The ear loops of a mask pose an entanglement risk for marine wildlife.



## Actions

Dispose of masks responsibly:

- Be aware of the nature of the hazards and the risks involved in disposing of single-use masks.
- Cut off the straps of the single-use masks before disposal.
- Consider using re-usable face masks where possible.

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