Great Lakes – St. Lawrence Shipping and COVID-19

Conference of Great Lakes St. Lawrence Governors and Premiers

August 2020
Presentation Map

Today’s goal: provide a system-wide overview of COVID-related maritime policies and practices

Sources of Guidance
Prevention and Protection
Reporting and Managing Cases
Maritime Transportation is an Essential Service

Key supporting element of a $6+ trillion regional economy and 237,868 jobs

Source: Great Lakes Seaway Partnership
Key Sources of Guidance for GLSLS Shipping

Industry policies are in line with national health agency policies

Worldwide Stakeholders
- World Health Organization
- International Maritime Organization
- Worldwide Industry Associations (ex: International Chamber of Shipping)

Canada
- Public Health Agency of Canada
- Transport Canada

United States
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- US Coast Guard

GLSLS Industry-tailored Guidance
- US and Canadian Industry Associations and Stakeholders
  - Lake Carriers, Chamber of Marine Commerce, etc…
Industry Guidance

GLSLS stakeholders supported information sharing among members, and tailored general advice to their respective industries.

- **Information and Resource Sharing**
  - Policy updates/guidance for members
  - Peer exchange: sharing best practices
  - Cooperative PPE purchases
  - Trust-building work

- **Development of Guidance**
  - Response planning for members
  - Policy feedback for agencies
Presentation Map

Sources of Guidance

Prevention and Protection

Reporting and Managing Cases
Implementation of Guidance

Three key areas for implementation in maritime operations:

- Shore-side
- Vessel-side
- In-Between

Source: Port of Montreal
Generalized Precautions

Many policies and practices closely mirror guidance for the general public:

**Similar to All Public Guidance:**
- Personal hygiene precautions: cover coughs, hand washing, etc…
- Social distancing requirements
- Mask requirements
- Cleaning common areas

**More-Unique Items:**
- Staggered staff shifts, avoid groups
- Cleaning of shared equipment

Source: Algoma Central
Precautions Aboard Vessels

Vessels present a unique challenge, measures are focused on limiting interaction with “outside” staff

Examples of Precautions:

- Structuring crew changes to reduce possible exposure or introduction
- Prohibiting non-essential shore leave
- Performing some inspections dockside instead on onboard
- Ensuring that staff coming aboard vessels, such as pilots, mechanics, or inspectors have been screened for COVID and observe social distancing, mask use, and other hygiene protocols
- Cleaning or sanitizing common areas after outside staff are aboard
The Importance of Trust

Trust building between vessel crews and shore-based staff (pilots, inspectors, etc) has been an important effort for some industry members.

- Problem: concern between crews, pilots
- Solutions:
  - Clear communication
  - Certification to shared standards

“…they [GLSLS stakeholders] needed to understand that they were looking out for each other…”

Source: Chamber of Marine Commerce
Presentation Map

- Sources of Guidance
- Prevention and Protection
- Reporting and Managing Cases
Case Detection and Reporting

Reporting cases for shore-side staff follows general public health guidance, but reporting for potential cases aboard vessels varies based on voyage types.

Shore-based cases are straightforward: report to local health authority, and follow guidance.

Cases on vessels:
- Domestic vessels generally report to state/provincial/local health authorities at next port of call.
- Vessels arriving from overseas must report to national transportation or health agencies.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Jurisdiction</th>
<th>Voyage Type</th>
<th>Case Reporting Guidance</th>
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| Canada       | Entering from International Waters | ▪ If a case is detected before arrival at a Canadian port, report to TC and PHAC. PHAC provides follow-up directions.  
                                                                                                                                                  ▪ If the case is detected after arrival in Canada, inform TC and local health authorities at the port of call for further directions. |
|              | Domestic                            | ▪ Notify TC and inform provincial and local health authorities at the next port of call.                                                   |
| United States| Entering from International Waters | ▪ Report to USCG. USCG will coordinate with CDC, who coordinates with local health authorities.                                             |
|              | Domestic                            | ▪ Inform state health authorities at the next port of call.                                                                               |
Responding to Cases

Associations serving domestic vessel operators have developed internal response plans and other response materials for their members.

Plan efforts include:

- Protocols for isolating and caring for crew members while vessels are in transit
- Locating berths or anchorages where affected vessels and crews can be diverted and quarantined
- Securing necessary supporting services for affected or quarantined vessel crews, including hotel services, specialty cleaning services, and catering services
- Identifying transportation services to return potentially-ill crew members to their homes
Conclusion: Looking Toward the Future

- Policies and practices are settled and well-understood
- No noteworthy gaps or differences in policies or protections between US and Canada
- Uncertain when policies and protections will be relaxed, some may be continued in future
- Global issue for operations: repatriation of foreign seafarers
Thank You:

This review was supported by information and feedback from agencies, industry associations, and ports:

**Agencies and Associations**
- American Great Lakes Ports Association
- Association of Canadian Port Authorities
- Chamber of Marine Commerce
- Lake Carriers Association
- Laurentian Pilotage Authority
- Shipping Federation of Canada
- St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation
- Transport Canada
- United States Coast Guard

**Port Authorities**
- Cleveland-Cuyahoga Port Authority
- Duluth-Seaway Port Authority
- Montreal Port Authority
- Port Milwaukee
- Port of Quebec
- Ports of Indiana – Burns Harbor
In addition to the government agency pages listed in the Shipping and COVID report, the following websites are good sources for aggregated information and updates on maritime-related COVID information:

- Shipping Federation of Canada COVID-19 Resource Centre (Canada and United States)
- Chamber of Marine Commerce COVID Resource Centre (Canada and United States)
- MARAD Coronavirus Guidance (United States)
- International Chamber of Shipping Coronavirus Resources (International)

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