

## **Guidelines for IMR/Research Vessel Department for handling the current Covid19 situation**

It is not possible to describe in detail what each and every one of us should do in every possible situation and context to avoid and/or spread Covid19 contamination. We have described some “cases” below” and “what to do” in the situation described in each case that each and everyone are supposed to follow.

See: <https://helsenorge.no/coronavirus> and <https://www.fhi.no/en/op/novel-coronavirus-facts-advice/advice-to-people-who-are-infected-or-have-been-exposed-to-infection/informasjon-different-languages/> for more details

### **Case 1. You are in quarantine at home and is it then required to have a sick leave permit from your GP? Will you be compensated for the quarantine time?**

With regards to your salary, you will keep it as in a normal situation if you are either put in quarantine by the medical authorities for example because you have been abroad, or you do it on a volunteer basis to protect yourself and your family, or you do it because IMR have asked you to do it before going on board a research vessel as crew or cruise personnel to work. You do not need a sick leave permit for this.

### **Case 2. You shall join one of our research vessels as crew or cruise personnel**

Keep yourself updated on the public regulations with regards to public transport limitations from your home to the vessel and keep yourself updated about the plans for the vessels, cruise plans etc. on IMR intranet “HInnsiden”. Stay in contact with your Captain and the Crew chief at IMR/RV Department if you are a crew member and your Cruise leader if you are cruise personnel. Make sure you receive the required travel documents to show that you are on a business trip to join a vessel. At last, fill in and send “Coronavirus COVID-19 Self Assessment” to the Captain by e-mail, not later than 24 Hrs before your arrival of the vessel. Cruise personnel send this assessment to Cruise Leader, who collects these and send to the Captain.

### **Case 3. What to do if you are in the defined Covid19 risk group?**

If you are in the Covid19 risk group and are planned to go to sea, get in contact with your GP or your Seafarers doctor to consult with them about your medical condition and if you should go to sea or not. If you are only going to stay on board in port as part of the safe manning on a laid up vessel, the medical recommendation may be different from if the vessel is going to sea on a long cruise, far from the nearest shore. If necessary, ask for a sick leave permit. If you are given restrictions with regards to travel to/from the vessel or for the execution of the cruise, make sure to inform the Captain, Crew chief and/or the Cruise leader as soon as possible.

If you are already on board and are in the Covid19 risk group, you should be protected as much as possible. You and the Captain must decide on what extra measures to be taken and everyone on board must then follow these procedures.

### **Case 4. What to do if you develop Covid19 symptoms when on board**

If you suspect that you are infected with the COvid19 virus, we recommend the following measures:

1. You should be isolated from the others to avoid spreading the virus, preferably in your own cabin. We do not recommend use of the vessel’s hospital for isolating persons.
2. The Captain reports Covid19 virus on board to IMR/RV Department and the authorities via SafeSeaNet.
3. Monitor your symptoms for a couple of days.
4. Consider, together with the Captain, if you should be evacuated to shore.

In such cases:

- a. Alert IMR/RV Department
- b. Contact the local harbour authorities

- c. Check possible transportation means and restrictions to get you home.  
It may not be possible to due probability to contaminate others.
- d. Contact your GP or other health care services if your condition is regarded as serious.

**Case 5. Can buffet meals be served on board?**

Buffet meals can be served as usual, but make sure to keep some distance at the tables!  
No visitors allowed in the galley or provisions stores.

**Case 6. Can personal belongings, provisions and other supplies be brought on board?**

Yes, but measures to reduce the probability of contamination shall be implemented. Everything to be taken on board shall be delivered on the pier and be loaded on board by the crew.  
Ask those delivering the goods to use gloves when they handle the goods and use disinfecting spray or chlorine washing water on all items. If possible, stow all goods, luggage, provisions taken on board in a separate room for 3-4 days before unpacking them, in particular luggage which has been handled by airport ground staff or other transportation staff on the journey to the vessel.

**Case 7. Should anybody else have access to your cabin the first days of the cruise?**

To reduce the risk of spreading the virus, the catering staff in particular, and others on board in general should not enter your cabin for the first days of the cruise in case you have brought the virus on board.  
Sharing of cabins for cruise participants should not be planned.

**Case 8. Are you allowed to travel home from the vessel under land, during a current cruise?**

No, there will be no visits on board when the vessel is at quay, and no visits shall be made to anyone ashore.

**Case 9. Can other people than crew and cruise personnel board the vessel when in port?**

Do not allow any one on board who are not strictly necessary. Sort out anything you can via telephone and email. Everyone needs to deliver "Coronavirus COVID-19 Self Assessment" before entering the vessel. Those who can send before they arrive the vessel, can do so. The others must fill in the form on the quay, before they may get on board. Only services that are mission critical, e.g. repair of critical scientific equipment or critical ship technical installations should be allowed. All other regular maintenance etc should be postponed as long as possible.

It is important that service personnel and others allowed to enter the vessel are only given access to parts of the vessel where they need to go to perform their tasks. No food service, no loan of safety equipment, tools etc, and no handing out of temporary keycards, temporary id-cards etc.

**Keep your distance and follow the general procedures to avoid Covid-19 spreading!**

**Case 10. Can others than crew and cruise personnel be allowed on board if there are persons in quarantine on board?**

Yes, but those entering the vessel must be informed that there are persons in quarantine on board and that measures have been taken to isolate them in the best possible way.

**Case 11. May I use facilities like the Gym, Sauna and Solarium on board the ship?**

As long as the vessel is at sea and the personnel is on board for 14 days, without contact with any other people and no one has developed symptoms of disease, the captain of the vessel open up for the use of these facilities. For vessels in port, these facilities shall not be permitted to use and will be closed, due to the danger of contamination and challenges to adequate cleaning. When in port, personnel must train in other ways, such as jogging, walking, etc.

References:

Coronavirus COVID-19 Self Assessment

External references:

Radio Medico and the Norwegian Center for Maritime Medicine:

<https://www.sdir.no/en/news/news-from-the-nma/guidance-for-preventing-the-spread-of-the-corona-virus-on-board-ships/>

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