

# INGOSSTRAKH

## CHINA CORONAVIRUS. NEWS ALERT.

The number of people infected with recently identified in China Coronavirus is increasing. Being firstly identified in China, the virus now has spread to other countries.

Experts say that level of threat is still below than it was in 2003 due to SARS virus, or in 2014 due to EBOLA, however WHO has recently declared the outbreak as an international public health emergency.

Chinese P&I Correspondent Huatai reported as follows on 29/1/20 “No Chinese sea port had been officially announced lockdown, except for the inland river port of Wuhan, where the virus is believed to have originated. Meanwhile, due to the end of public holidays of Spring Festival has been extended to 2nd February and the ports are taking strict prevention and control measures to deal with the virus, the loading/discharging rate may slow down. We suggest Insureds whose vessels are scheduled to call at Chinese ports in the near future, to keep close contact with their local agent so as to get the latest port information and to remind their crewmembers to take necessary protection measures”. Marine lawyers, meanwhile say that although the outbreak has become an international public health emergency, it is still very ambiguous that ports open for operations would be considered as unsafe, even in infected regions.

Some of ports worldwide are implementing special measures to prevent outbreak of virus in their country, e.g. Mina Al Ahmadi (Kuwait) Port Authority has advised that vessels coming directly/last port/transiting from China are requested to provide a statement declaring if any crew onboard has a high temperature, sore throat, coughing or breathing difficulties. Upon arrival, such vessels must drop anchor at the Out of Port Limits Anchorage. The Port Health Medical Officer (PMO) will board to check crew for any of the above symptoms before clearing the vessel for berthing and other operations. These vessels will not be allowed to have shore leave for their personnel, disembarkation for off signers, supply of provision/bond stores or any other service provided until cleared by Quarantine (PMO) Authorities. Therefore, it is highly recommended to constantly monitor medical condition of crew, and request local agents for any updates as to new special regulations at international ports concerning quarantine measures.

In case master has been alerted on such symptoms as fever, runny nose, headache, coughing and sore throat, sick person should be isolated, direct physical contact avoided. Master shall immediately report accordingly and seek prompt medical advice from Ingosstrakh appointed medical experts.

Ingosstrakh will encourage its Insureds to have this in mind, especially during port calls. A high hygienic standard and raised awareness will reduce the risk for catching any virus.

Best regards,

Ingosstrakh Insurance Company

P&I Department