

Ref No. : **20/01812/COM**Date : **24.02.2020**Page : **2 (Two)****To,****OWNERS/MANAGERS, DEPUTY REGISTRARS, CLASSIFICATION SOCIETIES,
RECOGNIZED ORGANIZATIONS, PORT STATE CONTROL OFFICERS****SUBJET: NOVEL CORONAVIRUS GUIDANCE****1. Purpose**

The purpose of this Notice is to provide information and guidance, based on recommendations developed by the World Health Organization (WHO), on the precautions to be taken to minimize risks to seafarers, passengers and others on board ships from novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV).

2. General Information

On 31 December 2019, WHO was alerted to several cases of pneumonia in Wuhan City, Hubei Province of China. Subsequently, on 7 January 2020, Chinese authorities confirmed that they had identified a new virus in the coronavirus family of viruses, which includes the common cold and viruses such as SARS and MERS. This new virus was temporarily named "2019-nCoV".

WHO has been working with the Chinese authorities, Governments and global experts to rapidly expand scientific knowledge on the new virus, track its spread and virulence, and provide advice on measures to protect health and prevent the spread of this outbreak. On 30 January 2020, WHO declared that the outbreak of novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) constituted a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC).

3. Common Signs of Infection

- Respiratory symptoms,
- Fever,
- Cough,
- Shortness of breath and
- Breathing difficulties.

4. Preventive Measures

Vessel Owners, Company Security Officers, Designated Persons Ashore, Masters and SSOs of Comorian Flagged Ships trading in areas which are experiencing an outbreak of 2019-nCoV are encouraged to implement measures to prevent the spread of the virus.



- Often hand-wash,
- Use alcohol-based hand sanitizer,
- Avoid touching eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands,
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a disposable tissue,
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

Those who would like to obtain updated information of 2019-nCoV may visit the official website of WHO:

<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/travel-advice>

5. Contact

Should you require any additional information, you may contact our Technical Department as provided below:

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We take this opportunity to reassure that human life, marine environment and property are always considered as a priority for the Maritime Administration of Comoros which is committed to the safety of the maritime industry and the users around the world.



Maritime Affairs Department

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Registrar