



ADVISORY ON PREVENTING SPREAD OF (COVID-19) FOR OPERATORS, OWNERS, PASSENGERS AND CREW OF BOATS AND VESSELS

Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses that cause illness ranging from the common cold to more severe diseases. COVID-19 is a new strain that has not been previously identified in humans. It spreads from an infected person through:

- Respiratory droplets generated when you cough or sneeze
- Close personal contact, such as touching or shaking hands, then touching your mouth, nose or eyes
- Touching surfaces with the virus on it, then touching your mouth, nose or eyes

The COVID-19 symptoms may take up to 14 days to appear after exposure to the virus, these include symptoms like fever, cough, headache, body aches and difficulty in breathing.

The World Health Organization (WHO) has assessed Coronavirus Disease 2019(COVID-19) as a pandemic. The Government is taking action to interrupt chains of transmission in the community and prevent an outbreak where possible.

In order to mitigate the impacts of COVID-19, everyone has a role to play. It takes more than governments and action from the health sector to protect the health and safety of all Citizens and persons residing in Kenya.

All of us can help our country be prepared by understanding how to prevent the spread of coronavirus. In line with the Government directives, Kenya Maritime Authority urges operators, owners, passengers and crew of boats, pleasure crafts and vessels to undertake the following precaution measures to minimize the risk of COVID-19 infection;

1. SOCIAL DISTANCING

Practice social distancing measures as a way to minimize COVID-19 transmission by minimizing close contact with others in addition to staying home when ill.

Respiratory illnesses like COVID-19 spread quickly in crowded spaces, an increase in the spread of infectious diseases can cause additional strain on the health care system during outbreaks, therefore avoid crowding on board boats and vessels.

Boat and vessel operators are directed to limit passenger capacity to 60 percent as per the Government directive so as to achieve social distancing on-board boats and vessels.

2. GREETING/HANDSHAKE

Respiratory viruses, such as the one that causes COVID-19 spread through physical contact. Instead of a handshake, a kiss or a hug, a friendly wave or elbow bump is less likely to expose you to respiratory viruses.

3. PERSONAL HYGIENE

Practise frequent hand hygiene and coughing and sneezing etiquette. Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces on-board the boats and vessels, such as steering wheel, safety/guard rails and seats

Crew members/Coxswain and passenger to;

- a) Observe good personal hygiene;
- b) Regularly disinfect lifejackets
- c) Practice frequent hand washing with soap;
- d) Wear a mask if you have respiratory symptoms such as a cough or runny nose;
- e) Cover one's mouth with tissue paper when coughing or sneezing, and dispose the soiled tissue paper in the rubbish bin immediately;
- f) Seek medical attention promptly if you are feeling unwell
- g) Minimize unnecessary close interactions between boats crew/operators and passengers.
- h) Provide disposal bins with lids onboard boats and vessels.

4. GATHERINGS

As per Government Directive large gatherings remain suspended until further notice. Operators are urged to put up measures to ensure compliance with the directive as much as possible

5. PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

Personal protective equipment (PPE), such as surgical-type masks and medical type gloves, should be used on the basis of risk exposure and in compliance with public health and occupational health and safety guidance for COVID-19.

Hand hygiene is the most effective way to prevent COVID-19 infection, it should be noted that the improper use of gloves can provide a false sense of security and increase the risk of infection.

6. MANAGING UNWELL PASSENGER(S)

The typical symptoms of the COVID-19 are, Fever, Runny nose, Cough and Shortness of breath.

Boat coxswain/crew members who notice any passenger who is unwell and displaying the above symptoms should:

- a) Notify the operators, owners, or persons-in-charge who should then immediately report this to the Ministry Of Health emergency teams on: 0800721316, 0729471414, 0732353535, 719 for appropriate medical assistance and guidance.
- b) Provide a surgical mask to the passenger who is unwell.
- c) Wear a surgical mask when attending to the passenger who is unwell.
- d) Surgical masks should be changed regularly, and if they are soiled or wet.
- e) If a surgical mask is not available, the passenger should cover his/ her mouth and nose with tissues when coughing.
- f) All masks, napkins, tissues, utensils and trays used by the passenger who is unwell should be disposed in leak-resistant plastic bags and disposal bins with lids.

7. MONITOR YOUR HEALTH

Boat Crew members should be aware of the symptoms of COVID-19. Any crew member who develops such symptoms within 14 days of coming into contact with a passenger who is unwell should self-quarantine and seek medical attention immediately.



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DIRECTOR GENERAL