

IAATO Operational Update 2020.02

February 7, 2020

Special Notices about Coronavirus Preventative Measures

1. IAATO Recommends CLIA Guidelines on Coronavirus Prevention

As previously sent to Operators by Dr. Terry Shaller, Acting Executive Director.

This update is to alert you to the fact that CLIA has revised their policies on the new Coronavirus in order to better address the cruise industry's exposure to the ongoing outbreak. In particular, they have advised the following changes:

- CLIA Members are to deny boarding to all persons who have traveled from, visited or transited via airports in China, **including Hong Kong and Macau**, within 14 days before embarkation.
- CLIA Members are to deny boarding to all persons who, within 14 days before embarkation, have had close contact with, or helped care for, anyone suspected or diagnosed as having Coronavirus, or who is currently subject to health monitoring for possible exposure to Novel Coronavirus.
- CLIA Members are to conduct preboarding screening necessary to effectuate these prevention measures. Enhanced screening and initial medical support are to be provided, as needed, to any persons exhibiting symptoms of suspected Novel Coronavirus

You can see the full statement as well as revised FAQs [here](#).

Because IAATO does not have a medical division with the expertise to develop independent advice on such matters, we have repeatedly urged IAATO Operators to be in touch with those who do have the expertise (national and local health authorities) and have passed along authoritative advice that comes to us from [CLIA](#), [WHO](#), and [CDC](#).

Although there are unanswered questions about just how easily the virus is spread and how lethal it is, it is clearly a very serious public health problem. And as we all know from long experience, the closed environment of a cruise ship is an ideal environment for contagion.

We urge all IAATO Operators, in the strongest possible terms, to adopt the policies and procedures announced by CLIA.

2. Message from United Kingdom Antarctic Heritage Trust on Preventative Measures

"At Port Lockroy, our team welcomes thousands of visitors from around the world throughout the year. To ensure the safety of everyone, we closely monitor global health issues that might impact the well-being of our staff and visitors.

The UK Antarctic Heritage Trust is closely monitoring developments related to the Coronavirus outbreak in China and continue to be actively engaged with the UK Foreign & Commonwealth Office regarding travel advice.

As a highly precautionary measure, until further notice, UKAHT will not accept visits to facilities at Port Lockroy by ships that have any guests or crew onboard that have travelled from or through China, including Hong Kong or Macao, in the last 14 days.

Please direct non-urgent queries to info@ukaht.org

Port Lockroy will contact ships due in over the next week or so to ask what their own policy on this is and will also let them know what the UKAHT policy currently is.

We will let you know when the policy changes."

3. Message from the Government of South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands on Preventative Measures

"There have not been any reported cases of Coronavirus on South Georgia.

We would ask that each person take steps personally to minimise the risk of transmitting any virus by following standard personal hygiene precautions. This includes regularly washing hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, particularly before eating, after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing; avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands; and coughing or sneezing into a tissue before safely disposing of the tissue in a bin.

If any persons on board the vessel feel unwell, they should report their symptoms immediately to the medical staff on board, and follow medical advice.

There are no medical provisions or services on South Georgia, and as such we cannot provide any support or assistance in this regard.

Prior to arriving in South Georgia, vessels will shortly be required to state if they have symptomatic persons on board. Based on this information GSGSSI will direct the vessel appropriately.

Visitor landings at this time are not affected, but that situation may change if the spread continues. It is likely that the Government Officers will come aboard singularly, which might slow down the clearance process slightly, although we are working hard to prevent that happening.

At this stage there are no restrictions on the visits from SGHT or BAS to carry out their presentations when invited to, but again this might change, or they may take a decision earlier to curtail some activities.

GSGSSI's next notice will contain information about the notification requirements for visiting vessels. As the situation develops further notices may be issued."

4. Brown Station Health Declaration Requirements

The Peninsula Vessels have reported that any vessel which would like to visit Brown Station must submit a ship's Health Declaration, and a more detailed consideration of the vessel may be required depending upon the nationalities onboard.

If vessels wish to visit Brown Station they should be prepared to provide the above details.

From all of us at the IAATO Secretariat:

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