



## 香 港 商 船 資 訊

## HONG KONG MERCHANT SHIPPING INFORMATION NOTE

**To minimize risks to seafarers, passengers and others on board ships from Novel Coronavirus**

*To : Shipowners, Ship Managers, Ship Operators and Masters*

***Summary***

The purpose of this Note is to promulgate IMO Circular Letter No. 4204 on the precautions to be taken to minimize risks to seafarers, passengers and others on board ships from novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV).

1. On 30 January 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared that the outbreak of 2019-nCoV constituted a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC). On 31 January 2020, IMO issued Circular Letter No. 4204 to provide information and guidance, based on recommendations made by the WHO, on the precautions for minimizing risks to seafarers, passengers and others on board ships from novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV).
2. The circular letter as attached to this Note provides information of the symptoms of 2019-nCoV infection, the risks of outbreak, WHO advice to reduce the general risk of transmission of acute respiratory infections as well as helpful links for available guidance to seafarers and shipping.
3. Shipowners, ship managers, ship operators and masters are urged to promulgate information to ensure that seafarers, passengers and others on board ships are provided with accurate and relevant information on the coronavirus outbreak and on the measures to reduce the risk of exposure if they are likely to be engaged on ships trading to and from ports in coronavirus-affected States.

4. Those who would like to obtain updated information of 2019-nCoV may visit the following websites of WHO or Hong Kong Department of Health (DH): -

- WHO

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

- DH

<https://www.chp.gov.hk/en/features/102465.html>

5. Any enquiries in relation to this Note may contact the Senior Surveyor of the Maritime Policy Branch at telephone number 2852 4395 or by e-mail to “hkmpd@mardep.gov.hk”.

Marine Department  
Multi-lateral Policy Division

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