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SUBJECT: Ship Screening & Advanced Safety Measures, Testing (Training)

TO: All Seeking Clearance to Come Aboard a NOAA Vessel

FROM: Director, Office of Health Services
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Ship Screening & Advanced Safety Measures

The Safer Federal Workforce Task Force¹ has put forth guidelines found here: <https://www.usa.gov/safer-federal-workforce>. Within this federal guideline are recommendations for screening measures. Furthermore, Office of Health Services in collaboration with Marine Medicine Branch and Marine Operations have added additional safety measures to ensure the safety of the federal workforce due to the concerns brought to our attention. The following changes are effective immediately: (Graphical Depiction on Page 3).

1. Individuals will no longer be required to submit an RRA form for reporting to work. This includes for dockside work and for preparing to get underway. The 7 day SIP is still required for all those preparing to get underway for more than one day after which, daily screening will continue to take place.
2. The ship shall inform the individual of the federal requirements, in advance of their arrival. They should be informed of the possibility of being denied access or turned away if requirements are not followed or for positive screening.
3. The individual will answer the questions on the NOAA COVID-19 Screening Tool (Separate Attachment dated "vMAR2021") on the day they arrive at the ship and every day they board thereafter.
4. The ship will turn away an individual for "Yes" answers (i.e. Positive Screening). Marine Medicine is available for consultation as needed (contact your respective Marine Center Health Services).
5. An individual who has participated in any of the below (also separately attached) **high-risk activities**² (by self-disclosure similar as it was prior to this memo and verified by the ship

upon arrival) shall wear an N95 mask for the first 5 days for the safety of others. After daily checks have begun and 5 days have passed, they shall wear a CDC approved cotton washable mask. [The requirement to wear an N95 for 5 days does **not** start over after each high-risk activity as long as the personnel are receiving COVID-19 screening using the NOAA COVID-19 Screening Tool daily, before work begins and 5 days has not passed since the last daily COVID-19 Screen]. MHS highly recommends compliance checks.

Training and COVID Testing Requirements

With recommendations put forth by the Office of Health Services, all trainings scheduled and held by Marine Operations of 5 or more personnel shall receive COVID testing of all participants, (including the instructor), regardless of the duration of the course and regardless of classroom setting. All participants must receive a negative test result (PCR or Rapid Antigen Test) no greater than 5 days prior to the start of training in order to participate. Testing is coordinated through the Operations Training team. Mr. Kevin Fleming is the lead, and will support one test for each individual. Rapid testing will allow for testing on the same day of training or the day before training commences. PCR tests and rapid antigen card results outside of OMAO's vendors are acceptable as long as it was taken no greater than 5 days before the course began. Courses held at a vendor's facility will continue to follow the COVID protocols set by that vendor.

- 1) *The **Safer Federal Workforce Task Force** is led by the White House COVID-19 Response Team, the General Services Administration (GSA), and the Office of Personnel Management (OPM). Task Force members include: the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the Federal Protective Service (FPS), the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), and the United States Secret Service (USSS)*
- 2) ***Activities that Pose a Higher Risk of Exposure to COVID-19***
 - **Participation in the below activities before reporting to the ship requires the use of a well-fitting N95 mask. Risk increases with larger crowds, singing, chanting and where it's difficult to stay spaced at least 6ft apart. The longer people are together in these situations the higher the risk. Weddings, festivals and parades are examples. Included herein are activities from multiple sources that have been deemed activities that put those at higher risk of contracting or spreading COVID-19: (but not limited to):*
 - *Commercial air travel*
 - *Public transportation (Buses, Trains)*
 - *Attending a large music concert*
 - *Going to a sports stadium*
 - *Going to an amusement/theme park*
 - *Attending a religious service*
 - *Going to a bar*
 - *Going on a cruise*
 - *Going to a crowded beach*
 - *Going to an indoor gym*
 - *Eating indoors at a restaurant or buffet*
 - *Playing high- or full-contact sports (Football, Basketball)*
 - *Going to casinos*
 - *Going to a movie theater*
 - *Other large gatherings (Weddings, Parades, Rallies, Festivals)*
 - *Playgrounds and summer camps*
 - *Going to a hair salon or barbershop*

Ship Screening Advanced Safety Measures			
Phase/Applicability	Current Process	New Process	Responsibility
Phase II/III/IV/VI, All personnel reporting to any NOAA ship.	Individuals and Designated Ship Screener send all RRAs to Marine Health Services.	<p>Individuals are no longer required to submit an RRA form.</p> <p>The ship shall provide the individual with the federal requirements, in advance of their arrival as well as an outline of repercussions if they aren't followed (i.e. being turned away at the ship level).</p> <p>The individual shall be presented with the NOAA COVID-19 Screening Tool (Based on OPM recommendations and the CDC) form on the day they arrive at the ship.</p> <p>The ship shall turn away an individual for "Yes" answers (i.e. Positive Screening). Marine Medicine consultation as needed.</p> <p>An individual who has participated in any of the high-risk activities (through continued self review/disclosure, actionable on their own) shall wear an N95 mask for the first 5 days. After which they can wear a CDC approved cotton washable mask.</p>	Ship Command and Designated Ship Screeners (for continued daily screening as usual).

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