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16 November 2021

COVID-19(21)43

**TO: LABOUR AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
ALL MEMBERS & ASSOCIATE MEMBERS
BIWEEKLY MEMBERS MEETING PARTICIPANTS
INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION GROUP PARTICIPANTS**

FORTNIGHTLY COVID-19 UPDATE AS OF 15 NOVEMBER 2021

Action Required: *Members are invited to note that 252,902,685 Confirmed cases of COVID-19 7,529,646 additional cases have been confirmed since the last report 2.97% which is a big increase in reported cases. 5,094,826 fatalities were recorded which is 115,405 additional deaths 2.26% % growth since the last report. 220 Countries/territories have cases. 7,160,396,495 vaccine doses given.*

- [WHO weekly update reports](#) and [WHO vaccine Tracker website](#)
- [ICAO Covid 2021 Economic Impact document](#)
- Our World in Data information detailed list of all country-specific sources
- Open access to in the daily-updated repository of cases
- Global ports currently administering vaccinations to Seafarers are listed Here. Advise additional locations to Natalie.Shaw@ics-shipping.org.
- Members are requested to tell all shipping companies to advise them immediately if someone requires **emergency medical care or if repatriation of a body is denied**. Please then send the details regarding the case, vessel IMO number location and situation of the seafarer affected to Natalie.Shaw@ics-shipping.org to ensure the UN agencies are immediately notified to put pressure on the member state concerned.
- ICS Covid Guidance documents available for download [here](#) including two IMHA documents relating to mixing vaccines and Oxygen carriage onboard ship.
- Sky News Covid 19 Travel Tracker
- As travel abroad increases with some restrictions easing, the pandemic is evolving differently in each country. The Sky News interactive map and country selector shows the global situation. The colour of the country's name reflects the level of restrictions in force. See [here](#).

SITUATION IN NUMBERS BY WHO REGION FOR 15 November 2021

		Cases	Deaths
Global		252,902,685	5,094,826
Americas		95,120,017	
Europe		80,935,224	
South-East Asia		44,289,689	
Eastern Mediterranean		16,577,338	
Africa		6,185,290	
Western Pacific		9,794,363	
	TOP 12 COUNTRIES	MOST CASES YESTERDAY	HIGH FATALITIES YESTERDAY
1	USA	US	US
2	India	Russian Federation	Russian Federation
3	Brazil	UK	India
4	UK	Ukraine	Ukraine
5	Russia	Turkey	Romania
6	Turkey	Germany	Brazil
7	France	Brazil	Mexico
8	Iran	India	Turkey
9	Argentina	Romania	Philippines
10	Spain	Iran	UK
11	Colombia	Poland	Iran
12	Italy	Thailand	Bulgaria

Australia

Please see [MIAL Domestic Border Closures Summary](#) for the latest information

For 32 years, Brisbane Marine Pilots (BMP) has served Brisbane Port's marine pilotage needs. that will end on 1 January 2022, when a new company will be responsible for piloting vessels. Pilot training is a potential source of major risk. Maritime Safety Queensland's (MSQ) current proven, approved training requirements are similar to all other major Australian ports but next year pilotage experience will be acquired through a new training methodology. Any questions should be sent to Maritime Safety Queensland.

Madagascar

The Social Partners have jointly written to request the assistance of ILO to address a situation affecting the recruitment and placement of Seafarers from Madagascar. There was an approach from a number of companies employing Malagasy seafarers before the pandemic which now seek to offer employment. This may provide some relief for seafarers and their families who were hit hard financially as they could not be deployed for over a year. Potential employment could be jeopardised due to an exorbitant cost for visa fees

applied to grant access to the USA, where most of the seafarers will operate or visit to join ships. A USA visa application is normally in the region of USD90 to USD110. While the US Embassy in Madagascar stated that the cost for a C-D1 visa is around USD660. The position taken by the US Administration is based on a reciprocity fee, in response to the Madagascar Government setting high visa fees for US citizens. Although the USA has not ratified the MLC 2006, we have requested a prompt intervention before the Madagascar Administration to highlight the urgency to review the existing situation and evaluate if it is possible to discuss the fees issue with the USA Administration.

Malaysia

21 October 2021, Pelabuhan Tanjung Pelepas (PTP), a member of MMC Group became the first port in Malaysia to extend its maritime industry vaccination program to vessel crews making their port of call in PTP. The aim is to provide a safe working environment for vessel crews and port workers. The program was developed based on liners' request basis. The first vaccination activity was for crews of Maersk Atlantic on the 21st October 2021. 12 crews were given the first vaccine dose by trained and professional personnel from Medini Gleneagles Hospital, Iskandar Puteri. Maersk Atlantic was inbound at PTP after calling at Penang Port. The vessel will make Singapore its next port of call and return to PTP on 11th November for a second vaccine dose.

USA

On October 25, the White House released a general Presidential Proclamation on advancing the safe resumption of global travel during the COVID-19 Pandemic. This has major implications for non-US citizen seafarers inbound to the US for crew changes. Proclamation requirements were outlined during a virtual call hosted by the US Department of Transportation and MARAD. It covers vaccinated individuals enabling them to have an easier compliance path than those not vaccinated and supports the view of the Administration that vaccination is fundamental to pandemic exit. Key components are:

- Effective date – November 8, 2021
- Proclamation applies to non-US citizens inbound to the US by air but conflicting information in CDC documents include application to both non-US and US citizens
- Excludes land border entries or individuals arriving at seaports
- Prohibits entry for individuals who are not fully vaccinated with certain exceptions (see section 3.b. of the proclamation)
- Section 3.b.ix for exception to “any noncitizen seeking entry as a sea crew member traveling with a C-1 and D non-immigrant visa, if such crew member adheres to all industry standard protocols”
- Those fitting into the exceptions category not fully vaccinated must provide proof of pre-departure testing, take precautions during travel e.g., wear a face mask, provide proof for post-arrival COVID testing arrangements, provide proof of arranging self-quarantine or self-isolate upon arrival and agree to full vaccination within 60 days of US arrival.
- Confusion about 7-day self-quarantine for non-vaccinated individuals even if negative test results CDC documents state you MAY need to do so. CSA is investigating this.
- Fully vaccinated = the period 2 weeks and after the last dose (single or, two dose)
- Acceptable vaccines are those approved by the US FDA (Janssen/J&J, Pfizer, Moderna) and additional WHO approved vaccines (AstraZeneca, Covishield, BIBP/Sinopharm, Sinovac)
- Acceptable vaccination proof includes verifiable records (digital/ paper e.g., vaccination certificates), non-verifiable paper records (vaccination record or certificate printout) and non-verifiable digital records (digital photos of vaccination card or record).

KEY QUESTIONS ARISING

Pre-Travel Enhanced Testing

- Previously, all travelers needed to produce a negative viral test result within three days of travel to the United States.
- Nucleic acid amplification tests e.g., a PCR test, and antigen tests qualify.
- The new system tightens the requirements, requiring unvaccinated U.S. Citizens & LPRs to show a negative test taken within one day of travel.
- All fully vaccinated U.S. Citizens and LPRs traveling to the United States should produce vaccination status documents alongside a negative test result.
- For Americans who can show they are fully vaccinated, the current requirement remains to produce a negative test result within three days of travel.
- Anyone traveling to the US who cannot show proof of full vaccination, must provide a negative test document within one day of departure.

Unvaccinated seafarers post air travel: CDC testing website

Those **not** fully vaccinated and allowed to travel to the United States by air through an exception are required to:

- Get tested with a [viral test](#) 3-5 days after arrival, unless holding COVID-19 documentation of recovery in the past 90 days. (Two viral test types can be used: nucleic acid amplification tests (NAATs) and antigen tests.)
- Stay at home or in a hotel room and self-quarantine for a full 7 days, even if testing negative, unless having documentation of recovery from COVID-19 in the past 90 days.
- [Isolate](#) if the test result is positive or [COVID-19 symptoms](#) develop.
- become fully vaccinated against COVID-19 within 60 days of United States arrival or as soon as medically appropriate, if intending to stay in the United States for 60 days or longer, unless having a medical contraindication or [too young to be vaccinated](#).

Relevant Links and Documentation

Presidential Proclamation – Text -[See Here](#)

[Fact Sheet: Biden Administration Releases Additional Detail for Implementing a Safer, More Stringent International Air Travel System | The White House](#)

State Department Air Traveller's Website:[See Here](#)

CDC International Travelers Website:[See Here](#)

CDC Requirement for Proof of Negative COVID Test / Covid recovery documents [See Here](#)

CDC Requirement for Proof of COVID Vaccination for Air Passengers -[See Here](#)

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