

COVID-19 Response and Recovery

Health Advisory No. 4

APPENDIX 02

PROTECTIVE PLAN FOR INDEPENDENT COMMERCIAL FISHING VESSELS

This Appendix will establish general recommendations for commercial fishing vessels. Due to the wide variation of conditions between geographic regions, additional guidance may be passed by local governments and regional fisheries associations. This alert establishes the minimum standards for protective measures recommended by the State of Alaska. Vessel captains may choose to enact measures which meet or exceed these standards. Vessel captains that choose not to enforce these standards are making the decision to accept additional risk to their crew and the surrounding communities.

I. **Applicability.**

- a. This Appendix applies to all catcher and tender vessels that have not agreed to operate under a fleet-wide plan submitted by a company, association, or entity that represents a fleet of vessels. This Appendix alleviates the need for independent commercial fishing vessels to submit a Community/Workforce Protective Plan to the Alaska COVID-19 Unified Command.

II. **Documentation.** Vessel captains should maintain a ship's log as a written or time-stamped electronic document covering, at a minimum, the following information:

- a. For the 2021 season, each independent vessel captain should sign Health Advisory No. 4, Appendix 04, Acknowledgement Form, prior to actively participating in the 2021 commercial fishing season. This form is an acknowledgement of the recommendations of this Appendix and an explicit description of which protective plan (State or fleet-wide plan) they are enacting and enforcing on the vessel.
- b. Certification that crew members have been screened upon arrival in accordance with Section V.
- c. Certification that arriving crew members have completed Entry Quarantine in accordance with Section IV.

III. **Definitions.**

- a. **Close Contact** means being within six feet of a known or suspected COVID-19 positive case for 15 minutes or greater or having had direct contact with the infectious secretions of a positive COVID-19 case. This determination is irrespective of whether or not either person was wearing a face covering. The 15-

minute time period does not have to be continuous, it may be cumulative over a 24-hour period.

- b. **Isolation** is the separation of people infected with the virus (those who are sick with COVID-19 and those with no symptoms) from people who are not infected. It is mandatory that anyone with a positive test result (that has not recently recovered from the virus), or who is diagnosed by a medical professional through symptoms, isolates immediately. Isolation is monitored by medical professionals and is discontinued upon receipt of a clearance letter from a medical provider.
- c. **Non-Safe Transit** is a mode of transportation on which some passengers have not completed entry quarantine and testing requirements, or their quarantine and testing status is unknown. This can also apply when social distancing and/or appropriate PPE cannot or is not used to isolate the travelers from the vehicle crew. Unless verified by the air carrier, all non-chartered commercial air travel is considered Non-Safe Travel.
- d. **Onward Travel** refers to the leg of travel from the quarantine location to the final destination port for a crewmember who is conducting pre-travel or mid-travel entry quarantine.
- e. **Quarantine** is the separation of individuals whose medical status is unknown, in order to prevent the possible spread of the virus to others. For the purposes of this Appendix, there are two primary types of quarantine, Close Contact Quarantine and Entry Quarantine:
 - i. **Close Contact Quarantine** is a quarantine process where an individual is suspected of infection after being exposed to a positive case. Close Contact Quarantine is monitored by a medical professional or designated representative of the employer to ensure compliance and daily health checks. Section VIII.e provides detailed guidance for the observation of close contact quarantine.
 - ii. **Entry Quarantine** is a sequestering process that occurs when an individual arrives to the State of Alaska or returns after being away for longer than 72 hours. Section IV.a provides detailed guidance for the observation of entry quarantine.
- f. **Quarantine Group** is any group of crewmembers that are living or working in close proximity during Entry Quarantine. These crewmembers should be assigned to a Quarantine Group and complete the remainder of their quarantine and travel together. All crewmembers sleeping in one room should be assigned to the same Quarantine Group. Quarantine Groups should be kept as small as possible to prevent multiple crewmembers from being exposed at once and should not exceed ten individuals. Should any member of the Quarantine Group develop symptoms or have a positive test, all other members of the Group should start Close Contact Quarantine.
- g. **Safe Transit** is a mode of transportation on which all travelers have completed quarantine and testing requirements and are not mixing with any populations whose quarantine and testing status is unknown. This can be a chartered aircraft, a ground vehicle, or a vessel. Social distancing and/or appropriate PPE should be

used to isolate the travelers from the vehicle crew, particularly in chartered aircraft and taxis.

- h. **Strict Social Distancing** is a limited form of Entry Quarantine. While observing Strict Social Distancing (SSD), an individual:
 - i. May be in an outdoor public place, but should remain six feet away from anyone not in their immediate household or workgroup, and should wear a face covering.
 - ii. May arrange curbside shopping or have food delivery, but should not enter restaurants, bars, gyms, community centers, sporting facilities, retail stores, office buildings, and school or daycare facilities.
 - iii. Should not participate in any group activities, including sporting events and practices, weddings, funerals, or other gatherings.
- i. **Testing.** There are three purposes for COVID-19 testing: Diagnostic Testing, Entry Testing, and Continuous Screening Testing.
 - i. Diagnostic Testing is intended to identify current infection in individuals and is performed when a person has signs or symptoms consistent with COVID-19, or when a person is asymptomatic but has recent known or suspected exposure to a confirmed case. This testing should be conducted as soon as possible once the individual is identified as a close contact. The individual should be kept separate from all others while test results are pending.
 - ii. Entry Testing is conducted during a crewmember's Entry Quarantine process to determine if it is safe for the crewmember to travel and enter the designated entry quarantine site, or be released from quarantine.
 - iii. Continuous Screening Testing (CST) is performed to identify persons who may be contagious so that measures can be taken to prevent further transmission. Screening testing should be conducted on asymptomatic crewmembers after completion of Entry Quarantine and without known exposure to a confirmed case.
 - iv. Molecular tests are presently the most accurate tests for determining whether someone is currently infected with COVID-19. Testing required under this Appendix can be accomplished with any available molecular testing method that is FDA-approved, or allowable under an FDA Emergency Use Authorization. This includes all Polymerase chain reaction (PCR) tests and other molecular-based rapid testing such as the Abbott ID-NOW or Cue.
 - v. A full list of FDA authorized tests is available at: (<https://www.fda.gov/medical-devices/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19-emergency-use-authorizations-medical-devices/vitro-diagnostics-euas>).
 - vi. Antigen Testing.
 - 1. Antigen testing should not be used for Entry Testing.
 - 2. Antigen tests should only be considered for Diagnostic testing at sea under direction of a healthcare provider with a repeating interval of at least 24 hours when no access to molecular testing

is available.

- a. When used during Diagnostic Testing for a symptomatic individual, if three consecutive antigen tests taken 24 hours apart are all negative, the individual may be presumed negative and that the symptoms are caused by a disease other than COVID-19. The individual should be kept separated and treated in accordance with the facility or vessel's normal communicable disease plan.

IV. Travel Procedures

- a. **Out-of-State Travel and Entry Quarantine Options.** All arriving crewmembers are strongly recommended to observe an Entry Quarantine period. Entry Quarantine conducted prior to sailing or flying to Alaska on Safe Transit may observe a 14-Day Entry Quarantine period with a molecular test at the end. Crewmembers traveling to Alaska to observe Entry Quarantine after arriving should observe a 14-Day Entry Quarantine period. Vessel crews may begin work during their Entry Quarantine period under the protective measures enacted by this order, but *should not shorten or modify quarantine using a test-based strategy*. Vessel captains should arrange for their crewmembers arriving to the State to follow one of the following methods:
 - i. **Pre-Season Quarantine** –
 1. The preferred method of Entry Quarantine for arriving vessels is for the entire vessel crew to observe a 14-day Entry Quarantine and testing in the Lower 48 prior to boarding the vessel and sail as a Movement Cohort with the vessel as a means of Safe Transit. All crewmembers should be screened for new symptoms prior to boarding.
 2. All crewmembers should be tested within 72 hours prior to boarding the vessel and be screened for new symptoms prior to boarding.
 3. Alternately, the crew could choose to quarantine at sea. The quarantine period will start upon departure from the last out-of-State port. The time spent in transit, demonstrated through a ship's log or equivalent record, will count toward the 14-day Entry Quarantine period if all protective measures are followed. The vessel may not have face-to-face interactions with other vessel crews or shore-based personnel until all crewmembers on board have completed their quarantine period, which will be documented in the ship's log.
 - ii. **Mid-Season Quarantine** – Crewmembers who need to travel to Alaska to join a vessel should observe a 14-day self-quarantine period after arriving, either in temporary lodging or on board the vessel.
 - iii. Travel Procedures. It is strongly encouraged that workers receive a pre-travel test to ensure that they are fit to travel. All crewmembers in transit

on commercial or chartered aircraft must wear a cloth face covering that meets the recommendations contained in the new Executive Order on Promoting COVID-19 Safety in Domestic and International Travel. This face covering must be worn while transiting air terminals (to be temporarily removed for security screening), while on the plane, and any follow-on ground transportation until they reach their self-quarantine facility (e.g., bunkhouse, vessel or private lodging). Crewmembers in transit should carry documentation from the vessel or company indicating that they are an essential Critical Infrastructure Crewmember as defined under the Federal (CISA) Guidance. Arriving crewmembers should proceed directly to the vessel or their designated self-quarantine location, should practice social distancing and avoid interaction with the community, and should not stop at any location between arrival at the local airport and transport to the vessel or Entry Quarantine location.

- iv. All crewmembers arriving to Alaska by air directly from a foreign airport must also comply with the CDC International Air Travel Testing Order of 12 Jan, 2021, including those arriving on chartered aircraft.
 1. The CDC entrance testing requirements may be met with an FDA-authorized antigen test. If an employer is having inbound CI workers tested solely to meet the Federal requirements (with a molecular test planned later in their Entry Quarantine process), an antigen test may suffice. But if the test is intended to satisfy Entry Quarantine testing, then it should be an FDA-authorized molecular test.
- v. **Entry Quarantine.** All crewmembers should comply with the protective measures set by Health Advisory No. 2 - International and Interstate Travel, the local government, and their lodging facility during Entry Quarantine. Crewmembers' temperature should be taken twice daily during self-quarantine. Should fever symptoms develop, follow the **Isolation** protocol in Section VIII.b; seek testing and medical treatment immediately if symptoms are suspected to be caused by COVID-19.
 1. To the greatest extent possible, arriving crewmembers should observe Entry Quarantine at their final destination in Alaska.
 2. Arriving crewmembers should be aware that some local communities, boatyards, or harbormasters may have enacted additional protective measures, and must comply with those measures.
 3. If arriving crewmembers must work or the vessel must get underway while some crewmembers are still within their 14-day self-quarantine period, they should not have contact with local populations during the 14-day period.
 4. If a new crewmember joins a quarantined worksite or vessel, they should practice social distancing and take all steps to minimize

- contact with other crew for 14 days. If this is not possible, an alternative would be to restart the 14-day clock for the entire crew.
5. For crewmembers who live locally or return to port daily, crewmembers, families, or roommates should practice social distancing for the duration of the season.
 6. If Entry Quarantine is not being observed on the vessel, crewmembers should only travel between their designated quarantine lodging and worksite.
 7. Quarantined crewmembers should not enter public spaces, to include retail stores, for any reason other than to seek medical attention.
 8. The vessel should report that it is undergoing quarantine or has a quarantined crewmember on board if it has any contact with another vessel, a processor, or a harbormaster. Vessels are recommended to fly a “Lima” flag or similar yellow and black pennant if they have any crew on board still under quarantine.
- vi. **Testing.** To the greatest extent possible, arriving crewmembers should receive a molecular test within 72 hours of commencing travel, or as close to commencing travel as possible in order to have results prior to traveling. Individuals with positive test results must not travel. If a pre-travel test is not possible, crewmembers should test at their own or the employer’s expense immediately upon arrival in Alaska. The initial test may be conducted in route to their destination port, but should be completed prior to entering their Entry Quarantine lodging or boarding the vessel. Crewmembers should retain documentation of test results.
 - vii. **Arrival Screening.** All crewmembers should be screened (see Section V) for symptoms upon arrival at the destination port prior to being allowed to board the vessel.
- b. **Initial In-State Travel and Strict Social Distancing (SSD) Options.** Crewmembers who are already resident in the State for longer than 14 days prior to joining a vessel crew should follow Health Advisory No. 3 - Intrastate Travel when traveling to a community off of the road system or Alaska Marine Highway System to join a vessel crew.
 - c. **Vessel Transit Between Alaskan Ports.** During the course of the fishing season, it is expected that vessels will transit between Alaskan ports and communities. If the vessel intends to remain at the destination port for less than 72 hours before returning to the port of embarkation, the entire crew should observe strict social distancing measures while in the temporary port, and should not disembark the vessel while in port for non-essential purposes. If the vessel intends to remain in the vicinity of the destination port for longer than 72 hours, or plans to transit to additional ports, they should observe the following protective measures:
 - i. To the greatest extent possible, all crewmembers should receive a molecular test within 72 hours of commencing transit.

- ii. Upon arrival at the destination port, the entire crew should observe strict social distancing measures for the first five days, and should not disembark the vessel for non-essential purposes.
- iii. Once the initial Entry Quarantine period after arriving in the State has been observed, there is no State requirement to repeat the Entry Quarantine period when moving between Alaskan communities.
- d. Fisheries Observers should complete their travel and quarantine in accordance with their employer's submitted Community/Workforce Protective Plan. Once they report to a vessel, they should be screened by the vessel captain before boarding, and follow the safety measures in the vessel's protective plan while on board.
- e. Compliance with this Appendix does not constitute a right to travel or access into any areas. It is incumbent upon the individual traveler to ensure that any proposed travel itinerary is still possible and to adhere to any and all additional restrictions enacted by air carriers and lodging facilities or by small communities.

V. Arrival Screening of Personnel. All crewmembers should be screened upon arrival to the vessel, using the following procedures. Vessel captains may wish to arrange for dedicated spaces to conduct arrival screening.

- a. Verbal Screening Questions
 - i. Have you experienced any cough, difficulty breathing, shortness of breath, loss of smell or taste, sore throat, unusual fatigue or symptoms of acute respiratory illness in the last 72 hours?
 - ii. Have you experienced a fever (100.4° F [38° C] or greater using an oral thermometer) within the last 72 hours?
 - iii. Have you experienced signs of a fever such as chills, aches & pains, etc. within the last 72 hours?
 - iv. In the past 14 days, have you traveled in an area or country with widespread COVID-19 transmission without practicing social distancing?
 - v. Have you had contact within the past 14 days with a lab-confirmed or suspected COVID-19 case patient? (Contact defined as being within 6 feet of a COVID-19 case for a prolonged period of time (10 minutes) or having direct contact with infectious secretions of a COVID-19 case).
- b. Physical Screening
 - i. Each crewmember should demonstrate a measured temperature < 100.4°F. (This reference is for oral temperature, a forehead (temporal) scanner is usually 0.5°F (0.3°C) to 1°F (0.6°C) lower than an oral temperature. An ear (tympanic) temperature is 0.5°F (0.3°C) to 1°F (0.6°C) higher than an oral temperature.)
 - ii. Anyone performing a physical screening should wear appropriate PPE. If PPE is not available, the crewmember may take their own temperature.
 - iii. Each crewmember should be free of fever or respiratory symptoms. A possible exception would be if crewmember has mild symptoms that are clearly attributable to another source (i.e. allergies).

- c. If a crewmember fails verbal or physical screening, or is displaying viral symptoms, they should not be allowed to board.
- d. Additionally, vessel captains should assess each crewmembers' individual risk factors (*e.g.*, older age; presence of chronic medical conditions, including immunocompromising conditions) and enact additional protective measures as needed to minimize their risk.

VI. Protecting the Public. It is anticipated that catcher and tender vessels may have local community contact for the following reasons: offload, resupply, and maintenance; planned shipyard work at the beginning of the season; vessels that return to port daily or frequently as part of their fishery; medical or other unforeseen emergencies. Vessel captains and crewmembers should use the following procedures to limit contact with members of the public to the greatest extent possible:

- a. Once all members of the crew have completed Entry Quarantine or transit SSD requirements, crewmembers should keep their interactions with the local community to a minimum. Many municipal and tribal governments have enacted local Emergency Ordinances, which will govern the conduct of crewmembers while in port.
- b. For crewmembers who live locally or return to port daily, crewmembers and families or roommates should follow social distancing guidelines.
- c. All face-to-face interaction between crew and shore-based workers should be kept to an absolute minimum, such as receiving for supplies, off-loading catch, fish tickets, and refueling. Those interactions that cannot be conducted remotely should follow social distancing guidelines.
- d. When contracting for services, vessel captains should ensure that vendors providing services to or onboard vessels in port follow appropriate safety precautions.
- e. Vessel captains should check in with the harbormaster prior to any port of call, and follow the directives of harbormasters while in their ports.
- f. Private sector businesses such as retailers, hotels and air carriers may also enact additional measures as a part of their protective plans, which must be followed in order to obtain their services.

VII. On Board Protective Measures. All crewmembers should receive training on the requirements of this Appendix. Vessel captains should enact protective measures as appropriate to their vessel size and design in order to limit proximity of persons while onboard or underway.

- a. All crewmembers should be screened daily for:
 - i. New signs of fever, cough, difficulty breathing, loss of smell or taste, unusual fatigue, or shortness of breath
 - ii. If there is a respiratory illness identified on board, take temperature twice daily of each crewmember
 - iii. If there are symptoms presenting, repeat the screening from Section V.

- b. Vessel captains should consider limiting the number of crewmembers allowed in operational spaces such as the wheelhouse and engine room, and staggering meal times to reduce the number of crew in the mess area. These social distancing measures are not required if the entire vessel crew is comprised of members of a single-family unit. These social distancing measures may not be possible on smaller vessels.
- c. Vessel captains should consider enacting additional protective measures for galleys and mess areas. Additionally, vessels should implement enhanced cleaning procedures for common surfaces and spaces. Detailed recommended procedures for cleaning, sanitizing, and disinfecting a vessel and disposal of PPE can be found at: <https://discoveryhealthmd.com/coronavirus-corner/>
- d. Vessel captains should encourage basic common hygiene practices, such as: frequent and thorough hand washing; respiratory etiquette, including covering coughs and sneezes; discouraging crewmembers from using others' personal property, work tools, and equipment.
- e. Crewmembers should be required to stay in their assigned accommodations if they are sick.
- f. For any material (e.g., lines, fish tickets) that must be passed between vessels or to shore, crewmembers should wear gloves and face coverings when handling material and perform hand hygiene after transfer. Crewmembers should disinfect any new supplies that arrive on board. After handling material, crew should remove and discard or wash gloves, immediately wash hands with soap and water or use hand sanitizer, and then disinfect any personal items they may have touched, such as radios.
- g. If the crew will be completing the 14-day self-quarantine on-board, it is acceptable to continue to fish during this time. Restrict contact with tenders or shore-personnel as much as possible. If contact with other vessels or personnel must occur, adhere to the safety plans set up by tender or port facilities, and utilize the following precautions:
 - i. Restrict personnel from boarding the vessel, any communication should be done by phone or radio instead of in person if possible
 - ii. Wipe down rails, door handles, and surfaces frequently with disinfecting wipes.
 - iii. Vessels are recommended to fly a "Lima" flag or similar yellow and black pennant if they have any crew on board under quarantine.
- h. Vessel captains should consider implementing a schedule of Continuous Screening Testing (CST) so that every crewmember is tested for COVID-19 at least once every two months while on board. Vessels should consult with that State of Alaska Section of Epidemiology or their telemedicine provider before using antigen test kits to conduct CST.
- i. To the greatest extent possible, vessels should discourage cross-decking or adding crewmembers once the crew is formed and all members have completed Entry Quarantine.

VIII. Procedures for Crewmembers who Become Ill. Vessels should follow the following procedures for identification, isolation and notification of crewmembers who begin to show symptoms of infection:

- a. **Identification.** Screen crew daily for:
 - i. New signs of fever, cough, difficulty breathing, loss of smell or taste, unusual fatigue or shortness of breath.
 - ii. If there is a respiratory illness identified on board, take temperature twice daily of each crewmember.
 - iii. If there are symptoms presenting, repeat the screening from Section V.
 - iv. If a crewmember screens “yes” to any of the symptom questions (1-3), place a surgical mask on if tolerated.
 - v. If a crewmember screens “yes” to BOTH: (1) any of the symptom questions (1-3); AND (2) an epidemiological risk factor questions (4 or 5), place a surgical mask on crewmember and isolate them per the **Isolation** protocol below.
 - vi. Evaluating provider should don appropriate PPE and begin to document who has had exposure to the crewmember within the last two days.
 - vii. If available, or as soon as practicable, obtain a rapid influenza swab. If positive, and no other reason to suspect COVID-19, treat crewmember as an influenza case, not a COVID-19 case. There can be co-infection with COVID-19 and influenza, if there is any suspicion for COVID-19 exposure in the prior 14 days, continue to treat as a suspected COVID-19 case.
 - viii. If a crewmember screens “yes” to fever and respiratory symptoms, but does not clearly have an exposure that would qualify for a COVID-19 suspect case, seek medical evaluation and, at a minimum, recommend isolation for 72 hours AFTER the fever ends without the use of fever-reducing medications AND an improvement in initial symptoms (i.e. cough, shortness of breath) before returning to work.
- b. **Isolation.** Isolation separates sick people with a contagious disease from people who are not sick. When possible, isolate sick crewmembers in a separate stateroom and designate a head that is only for isolated crew. In vessels that cannot accommodate isolation, consider the entire vessel under quarantine for 14 days.
 - i. If a crewmember is identified as a potential COVID-19 case, immediately ask them to wear a facemask (a surgical mask, not N-95), unless they are having difficulty breathing. If there are no face masks available, a cloth face covering may be used as a last resort.
 - ii. Place the crewmember in a private room with the door closed, ideally an airborne infection isolation room if available. Place a label on the door indicating no one is to enter the room without proper PPE. This room should have separate toilet and bathing facilities.
 - iii. Any staff entering the room should use Standard Precautions, Contact Precautions, and Airborne Precautions, and use eye protection such as

- goggles or a face shield. If N-95 masks are not available, a surgical mask may be considered an acceptable alternative at this time.
- iv. Access to the room should be limited to personnel involved in direct care. Meals should be delivered to the room and dishes and utensils cleaned separately. Anyone with exposure to the crewmember should document the date and time of exposure, nature of exposure (close contact, same room, secretions), and PPE worn. Meticulous hand hygiene should be performed immediately after doffing PPE.
 - v. Maintain a distance of six feet from the sick crewmember and keep interactions with them as brief as possible.
 - vi. Limit the number of people who interact with sick people. To the extent possible, have a single person give care and meals to the sick person.
 - vii. Provide tissues and access to soap and water, and ask the sick crewmembers to cover their mouth and nose with a tissue (or facemask) when coughing or sneezing.
- c. **Notification.** Vessel captains must notify the nearest Public Health Nursing Center or the DHSS Section of Epidemiology at 907-269-8000 in the event of a positive clinical diagnosis or positive test result in their workplace. A full list of Public Health Nursing Centers is available here:
<http://dhss.alaska.gov/dph/Nursing/Pages/locations.aspx>.
- i. Vessel captains may also be required by local ordinances to contact the local or Borough government authorities or Emergency Operations Center (EOC).
 - ii. The information that should be provided when notifying Public Health of a case includes the name of the case and his/her date of birth, current address, state or country of permanent residence, telephone number, and the date of test result.
 - iii. In accordance with USCG District 17 guidance, persons on vessels underway who exhibit symptoms consistent with COVID-19 must be reported immediately to the U.S. Coast Guard Captain of the Port (COTP). For Southeast Alaska north to Yakutat, the COTP is USCG Sector Juneau. For Prince William Sound around to the Chukchi Sea, the COTP is USCG Sector Anchorage.
 - iv. Vessels that departed from a foreign port and are destined for a U.S. port must report to the closest Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Quarantine Station any sick or deceased crew/passengers during 15 days prior to arrival at the U.S. port. Guidance to vessels to report deaths and illnesses to the CDC can be found at:
<https://www.cdc.gov/quarantine/cruise/reporting-deaths-illness/guidance-how-report-onboard-death-illness.html>.
 - v. Vessels will follow the contact process from the State of Alaska Maritime Communicable Disease Emergency Response Plan.

- d. **Transportation.** Procedures for transportation of suspected COVID-19 cases at disembarkation:
- i. Vessel captains should contact the harbormaster and local clinic prior to disembarking a crewmember who suspected of having COVID-19.
 - ii. For the crewmember with suspected COVID-19: A facemask should be worn by the patient for source control. If a nasal cannula is in place, a facemask should be worn over the nasal cannula. Alternatively, an oxygen mask can be used if clinically indicated. If the patient requires intubation, see: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/guidance-for-ems.html> for aerosol-generating procedures.
 - iii. If ambulance transportation is required, local EMS should be notified that this is a potential COVID-19 case so that responders may use appropriate PPE and follow their protocols.
 - iv. If private vehicle transportation is utilized: Anyone who will be driving a crewmember with suspected COVID-19 should maintain as much distance from the crewmember as possible, wear a mask if available, and avoid unnecessary contact with the ill person and their belongings. If the driver will provide direct care to the ill person (e.g., moving patients onto stretchers), they should wear recommended PPE. After transportation is complete and before reentering a driver's compartment, the driver should remove and dispose of any PPE in sealed plastic bag and perform hand hygiene. Windows should be down to allow for air exchange if possible.
 - v. The receiving healthcare facility should be notified that a patient with suspected COVID-19 is being brought in so that they may take appropriate infection control precautions.
- e. **Close Contact Quarantine.** Quarantine separates and restricts the movement of people who were exposed to a contagious disease to see if they become sick. If separate staterooms with designated bathrooms are available, this procedure may be considered for individual crew. Otherwise, consider for the entire vessel under Close Contact Quarantine following a positive case.
- i. Crew members who have had high-risk exposures to a person suspected of having COVID-19 should be quarantined in their cabins. All potentially exposed crew members should avoid leaving the vessel and self-monitor under supervision of ship medical staff or telemedicine providers until 14 days after the last possible exposure (if the ill crewmember remained on the vessel and could not be fully separated from healthy crew, consider the entire vessel under quarantine for 14 days after the case is determined by public health to no longer need isolation). If an entire vessel is under quarantine, they may continue to work.
 - ii. Crewmembers who are identified as Close Contacts but remain asymptomatic that have been fully vaccinated, with documented proof that they have received all required doses of an FDA-authorized vaccination against COVID-19 with the final dose being administered more than 14

days prior to their exposure, should follow [quarantine guidance from the CDC specifically for vaccinated persons](#).

- iii. If personnel develop fever, cough, difficulty breathing, or other symptoms of COVID-19 while in quarantine, they should be isolated and undergo medical assessment, notification and transportation as per the other relevant sections of this Appendix.
- iv. Vessel management and telemedicine providers should remain in contact with personnel through the self-monitoring period to oversee self-monitoring activities.
- v. If crewmembers are going to remain on the vessel upon completion of Close Contact Quarantine, they should not use testing strategies recommended by the CDC to reduce Close Contact Quarantine to less than 14 days. If the crewmember will be heading immediately home following quarantine without returning to the vessel, they may consider the CDC [Options to Reduce Quarantine](#) to 10 or 7 days using PCR testing.
- vi. If the vessel returns to port with a sick crewmember, remaining crewmembers should not leave the vessel except to receive medical care or to move directly to a suitable quarantine location. No off-vessel work is permitted. The vessel should coordinate delivery of food or other necessities. Vessels are recommended to fly a “Lima” flag or similar yellow and black pennant if they have any crew on board under quarantine.
- vii. The remaining exposed crewmembers should complete a 14-day Close Contact Quarantine period, from the time the sick crewmember is transported, on the vessel or in a suitable quarantine location.

IX. Continuity of Fisheries Operations.

- a. Vessel captains should consider the impact that this pandemic will have on the fishing industry as a whole, their suppliers and wrap-around services such as fuel, groceries and lodging.
- b. Vessel captains should consider the potential impact to their operations that may arise as a result of outbreaks or increased rates of crewmember absenteeism, and enact plans for cross-training crewmembers to the greatest extent possible.
- c. Vessel captains should cease operations and return to port if they do not have enough healthy crewmembers remaining to safely operate the vessel.