



Quarantine Unit, Ministry of Health Sri Lanka

Title: Standard Operating Procedure for Emergency Medical Disembarkation of Crew Members

SOP No.: PHS COVID-19 SOP-03

Version :02

Effective Date: 22.11.2021

Prepared by: Quarantine Unit, Ministry of Health

Standard Operating Procedure for Emergency Medical Disembarkation of Crew Members

1. Only the requests for emergency medical conditions are considered under this category of disembarkation. This SOP is applicable for both Foreign and Sri Lankan nationals.
2. A request for an emergency disembarkation of crew members should reach the relevant Port Health Office via email. This should carry a formal and valid request, a copy of the passport, Health Declaration Form (HDF), copies of documents related to the patient's health condition, medical log, and radio medical advice notes etc.
3. Depending on the emergency, information can be conveyed to Port Health Officer (PHO) over the phone and documents can be sent at earliest.
4. The decision for granting health clearance for disembarkation will be taken case by case basis by the PHO who is the Proper Authority. Considering the health condition of the patient and the health risks to the community, PHO may accept or reject the request for disembarkation as per their judgmental decision.
5. The vessel should obtain routine health clearance to berth or for operations at OPL/Anchorage. However, it is recommended to berth the vessel to minimize the contact risk when disembarking the patient.
6. Once the documents are assessed, the PHO will grant health clearance for disembarkation referring to documents and the same information will be disseminated to relevant authorities.
7. All emergency medical disembarkations should be considered as high-risk events for COVID-19 and all involved personnel should wear appropriate PPE (coverall/ overall, face mask, face shield/goggles, gloves, boots) and precautions should be taken by all persons who will have a possible contact with the patient. However, PHO will categorize the patient according to the risk level.
8. If the patient is a suspected COVID-19 case, PHO should arrange to send the patient to an approved hospital via an ambulance service. Coordination should be done by the relevant PHO



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with the assistance of the Agent of the vessel. However, permission to disembark suspected COVID-19 patients will be based on the Ministry of Health policy prevailing at that time.

9. If the patient is at low risk of having COVID-19 as decided by the PHO, patient can be sent to a government hospital (for Sri Lankan Nationals) or an approved private hospital by an ambulance for treatment. However, an email/note indicating ‘agree to accept the patient’ should be sent by the intended private hospital to the PHO. This should be coordinated by the agent of the vessel.
10. All disembarkations and transport should be done under the strict supervision of Sri Lanka Navy and Sri Lanka Navy shall escort the ambulance up to the hospital.
11. If the person is admitted to a hospital, the patient should undergo COVID-19 PCR testing as early as possible and agent should share the results with relevant PHO. Testing laboratory shall send all the results immediately to Epidemiology Unit (chepid@sltnet.lk, samithag@hotmail.com). If there is a positive result, testing laboratory shall immediately contact Dr. Samitha Ginige of Epidemiology Unit (0777664036) and give details immediately, followed by an email (samithag@hotmail.com).
12. If the patient is fully vaccinated and two weeks have been passed after the vaccination, can be discharged from the hospital if the COVID-19 PCR report is negative. Unvaccinated/ Partially vaccinated Sri Lankan crew members can be sent home for quarantine. Unvaccinated/ Partially vaccinated Foreign National crew members need to be sent to designated Isolation Centre (i.e. Quarantine centres for seafarers/ sea marshals) until repatriated / until quarantine period is completed as per the guidelines issued by Ministry of health for travellers.
13. PHO should enter the details in the registry of disembarked sick crew member and update the information once available.
14. Although this SOP is applicable for routine events, Director Quarantine as the Proper Authority under the Quarantine and Prevention of Diseases Ordinance or any other Proper Authority in the port and airport under the same ordinance has the powers to take judgmental decisions at any time for the best interest on prevention and control of diseases.



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15. Any changes to this SOP will be published in the Website of the Quarantine Unit as the next version.