Quarantine Unit, Ministry of Health Sri Lanka

Title:	Standard Operating Procedure for foreign Seafarers arrive by air		
SOP No.: PHS COVID-19 SOP-10	Version :	02	Effective Date: 26.03.2021
Prepared by: Quarantine Unit, Ministry of Health			

Standard Operating Procedure for Foreign Seafarers Arriving by Air

1. This Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) is applicable for all foreign seafarers arriving by air to embark to vessels from a seaport in Sri Lanka and the transit arrival of seafarers to get a connecting flight.

2. The Agent should make a request to the Secretary to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to obtain administrative approval of the arrival.

3. All seafarers must have a negative test result for Covid-19 PCR test done within 96 hours of prior to boarding the aircraft. The agent shall ensure that only a PCR negative seafarer to board the aircraft.

4. Agent should coordinate with a designated isolation center and get the accommodation confirmation for the said seafarers.

5. Once seafarers arrive at the airport in Sri Lanka, they should go through thermal detector for temperature screening.

6. Seafarers arrived to get a connecting flight will be directed to the transit passenger area

7. Seafarers arrived to embark to vessels from a seaport in Sri Lanka, should fill a Health Declaration Form (HDF) individually and should hand over to the airport health desk along with the pre-boarding PCR test results. The airport health officer grants the health clearance by endorsing the counter part of the HDF. For Bulk Crew Change PCR test results should be E Mailed to the Airport Health Office prior to embarkation.

8. The representatives of the agent who accompany the seafarer to the Immigration Counter for bond signing, should wear adequate disposable PPE (disposable overall/coverall, surgical mask, face shield/goggles and head cover). They should maintain adequate physical distancing and practice hand washing/hand sanitizing frequently. They should use plastic document folder which can be disinfected. They should strictly confine to the area where

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seafarers are attended to and should not go to other areas in the airport. They should follow the guidance/instructions given by the Airport Health Officer.

9. The seafarer will be directed to the sample collection station for the PCR testing. A Health Ministry approved external laboratory should be pre-arranged by the Agent for this purpose.

10. After the collection of the PCR sample and custom, immigration and health clearance, the seafarer should be handed over to the security forces escort them to the isolation center. Transportations of seafarers should be done according to the conditions given in the Standard Operating Procedure on transportation of seafarers (PHS COVID-19 SOP-09).

11. At the isolation center the conditions in the Standard Operating Procedure on Selection and maintenance of an isolation center for seafarers (PHS COVID-19 SOP 08) will be applicable.

12. Testing laboratory shall send all the results immediately to Epidemiology Unit (chepid@sltnet.lk, samithag@hotmail.com), Quarantine Unit (quarantinelk@gmail.com) and transport agent. 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.

13. 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 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.

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