



Government of Samoa

Ministry of Health

The following procedures are to provide guidance for Handling of all foreign vessels, and fishing vessels during the COVID-19 Pandemic under the Health Ordinance 1959 and in line with Cabinet instructions FK(20) Faapitoa 3, and FK(20) Faapitoa 5.

PROCEDURAL GUIDE FOR ALL VESSELS INCLUDING FISHING VESSELS

HEALTH REQUIREMENTS AT SEA PORT (WHARF)

- 1) All NEW joining crew including any traveler are **NOW** required to be fully vaccinated before joining any vessel designated for Samoa with any COVID-19 vaccine and preferably vaccines already pre-qualified by the World Health Organization (AstraZeneca, Pfizer, Janssen, Moderna, Sinopharm,).
 - a. A **legitimate vaccine certificate** is required and a hard copy must be presented on arrival into Samoa. Fully vaccinated implies completion of the required prescribed doses as per vaccine used.
 - b. A **Negative rtPCR COVID test** is still required to be taken within 72 hours of departure from originating seaport. The lab result must be transmitted via email or present hard copy on arrival into Samoa.
 - c. A **blood serology for COVID-19 IgG and IgM antibodies** to be done within 7 days is required before departure from originating seaport. The lab result must be transmitted via email or present hard copy on arrival into Samoa.
 - d. Medical Clearance signed and done within 120 hours of departure from originating seaport is still required. The medical clearance must be transmitted via email or present hard copy on arrival into Samoa.
- 2) All crew who have been on the vessel for 30 days or more who have or haven't been vaccinated is required to have a PCR test done at last port of call before onward voyage to Samoa.
- 3) For fishing vessels entering Samoa's port **with any interaction with other vessels including crew change at sea or at any port must complete 28 days out at sea before entering Samoa starting from date when the new crew boarded the vessel.**
- 4) Any New Crew with a history of a positive COVID 19 rtPCR test is not allowed to enter Samoa:
 - a. Unless Six (6) months have passed from date of the first positive test result;
 - b. Must provide genome sequencing test of the virus if available;
 - c. Must provide proof of 3 consecutive negative test results at least 7 days apart after six months have passed;
 - d. Must have a blood serology for COVID19 Antibody test done within 5 days before departure and

- e. All COVID 19 PCR test results, genomic sequencing test and Serology tests must be submitted via email to Director General of Health on email ceo@health.gov.ws and Dr Robert Thomsen email robertt@health.gov.ws

5) A Vessel **Crew** who has been tested **POSITIVE for COVID19** at last port of call will not be accepted.

6) **All vessels are assessed on a case by case basis.**

7) All vessels and Fishing vessels entering Samoa **that do not comply with the above, will be quarantined for a period not less than 21 days unless determined by the Ministry of Health.**

8) Clearance

- a. Agents circulate clearance documents to Ministry of Health Port Officers no later than 72hrs notice before arrival to port.
- b. Additional Documents may be required such as:
 - i. Travel History of crew from country of origin and dates boarded the vessels
 - ii. Crew temperature log in degrees Celsius measured 12 hours apart and must indicate instrument used (IR, mercury, etc) and site (oral, forehead, armpit etc)
 - iii. Medical Log book of vessel and
 - iv. Any other document deemed necessary at the time
- c. All vessel crew are screened at the quarantine buoy and determine risk level before Pratique granted to port. Screening includes but not limited to:
 - i. Check of Health Maritime Declaration Form
 - ii. Ship Sanitation Certificate
 - iii. Check and Review Vessel's Port of Calls
 - iv. Crew list and Medical report Assessment
 - v. Vaccination List of Crew – Yellow Fever, Malaria and Measles
 - vi. Measuring of body temperature (if required)

Steps to be taken

I. Step 1: (Preparation)

- a. Port Health Officers board the tug-boat at the wharf (wear full PPEs).
- b. Proceed to the quarantine buoy (2 miles away from the wharf) to conduct health check of incoming vessels.

II. Step 2: (Clearance)

- a. Board vessel.
- b. Conduct health screening.
 - i. Check health documents (Maritime Declaration Form, Medical Clearance, negative COVID test results, Health Declaration form, and Sanitation certificate, Port of Calls & New joining crew, Vessel Medical Log book and Crew vaccination Certificate). All these documents must in-line with our updated Travel Advisory.
 - ii. Check temperature for all crew members. (if indicated)
 - iii. Travel history (check passport), especially new join crew from high risk countries.

- iv. Ask further questions to confirm if they are free from signs and symptoms of COVID19.
 - v. Free pratique granted if vessel comply with all health requirements.
 - vi. Allow local pilot to board the vessel (pilot to wear full PPEs).
 - vii. Proceed towards the wharf.
- c. Landing ashore of any kind of garbage from ships is prohibited.

III. Operations

- a. Samoa Port Authority securities to set up Restricted Fence around the gangway.
- b. **Vessel Crew**
 - i. Crew are not allowed to land on the wharf (NO SHORE LEAVE)
 - ii. Only one crew allowed at the gangway throughout operations and changed every 8 hours
 - iii. Only use VHF radio for communication between ship crew and shore personal including stevedores
 - iv. Ship crew must prepare cargo gear and cargo while stevedores are waiting on the wharf
 - v. When all preparation for cargo operations are completed, the ship's crew are required to stay inside the accommodation before stevedores board for cargo operations.
 - vi. Number of crew allowed to assist with operations is determined by MoH port health personnel based on risk and all must wear full PPE
- c. **Stevedores**
 - i. All must be fully vaccinated, No one will be allowed if not fully vaccinated
 - ii. Stevedores crew must all wear full PPE
 - iii. All must carry hand sanitizers at all times.
 - iv. A disinfectant must be provided for crane operator to disinfect crane operating station before commencement of operations
 - v. Face mask will be strictly monitored and observed
 - vi. Only crane operators are allowed to proceed through the gang way
 - vii. All other will be transported via crane buckets
 - viii. Maximum number of local crew per crane is 6
 - 1. 1 crane operator
 - 2. 1 supervisor/loading master
 - 3. 4 labors
 - ix. Any breach in safety procedure with PPE will cease all operation
- d. Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries will conduct disinfection process of containers as they land.
 - i. All must be in full PPE

IV. Pilots

- a. Must wear PPE before boarding
- b. Must not be in contact with anyone onboard and must maintain a 2 meter distance.

V. All frontline workers (health, pilot and stevedores) must proceed directly to Doffing station for proper doffing and disinfection.

VI. Risk Level assessed against ports of calls within 14 days before arrival

- a. Ships from Affected Countries with Confirmed community transmission – **HIGH RISK**
- b. Ships from affected countries without community transmission – **MODERATE RISK**
- c. Ships from Unaffected Countries – **LOW RISK**

The Director General of Health from time to time may change any procedures in accordance with relevant sections of the Health Ordinance 1959.