

March 12, 2020

Re: BCMEA COVID-19 Update #5

British Columbia provincial health officials and the BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC) have confirmed 46 cases of COVID-19 in British Columbia as of March 11, 2020. According to BCCDC, the risk of the virus spreading remains low.

There have been growing concerns on how to protect the health and safety of waterfront employees and how to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. **Currently, there are no impacts to operations on the waterfront.**

This week, BCMEA met with Transport Canada, Public Health Agency of Canada, Employment and Social Development Canada, BC Chamber of Shipping, Pilots, ITF and the ILWU. Transport Canada committed to a coordinated path forward on COVID-19 response. After the meeting, BCMEA committed a way forward on prevention and is working with ILWU and the Chamber of Shipping to develop an info document.

The BCMEA circulated the following Health Canada recommendations regarding COVID-19 to internal employees earlier this week.

STAY HOME IF YOU ARE SICK: Now and always during cold and flu season, **stay home if you are sick.** Encourage those you know are sick to stay home until they no longer have symptoms.

LIMIT TOUCHING: Since respiratory viruses, such as the one that causes COVID-19, are spread through contact, change your regular greeting. Instead of a handshake, a kiss or a hug, a friendly wave or elbow bump is less likely to expose you to respiratory viruses.

PRACTICE HAND HYGIENE: Practise frequent hand hygiene and coughing/sneezing etiquette.

DISINFECT SURFACES OFTEN: Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces, such as doorknobs.

Click [here](#) to review the full list of recommendations.

The BCCDC is advising anyone concerned that may have been exposed to or is experiencing symptoms of COVID-19, to contact their primary care provider, local public health office or call 8-1-1.

The BCMEA will send updates as they become available. For more on facts on the virus, please visit the BCCDC website for [current information](#).

###

