



## **Medical assistance to seafarers in ports with Covid-19**

The system of medical assistance to seafarers in ports is now limited due to the Covid-19 crisis.

Therefore before sending a seafarer on land for medical care the ship should be in direct contact with the receiving medical service.

This can be arranged through the normal intermediary used in ports: shipping agent or others.

This dispatching is necessary because hospitals and clinics are not allowed and do not want to receive patients that are a risk for infection or a waste of resources because not urgent.

If a seafarer cannot land for medical care, the ship has to seek advice from a Telemedical Advisory Service or other medical advice service with experience in the matter and possible contacts on land.

If a seafarer has not had contact with anyone for 14 days with Covid-19 and is not showing any symptoms of Covid 19 they are unlikely to pose a risk and port government authorities should use discretion in dealing with non-covid cases and identify suitable aid and assistance.

Ship visitors and other intermediaries in ports should be aware of this difficult situation of seafarers and try to mediate where possible.

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