



## MARITIME INDUSTRY AUTHORITY

10 March 2020

### MARINA ADVISORY

No. 2020-15

Series of 2020

**TO** : All Concerned Government Agencies, Flag States, Port Control Authorities, Shipowners/Bareboat Charterers/Ship Operators/Ship Managers/Shipmasters of Philippine-Registered Overseas Ships, Manning Agencies, Filipino Seafarers Onboard, and Other Concerned Entities

**SUBJECT : JOINT STATEMENT OF THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION AND THE INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANIZATION ON THE RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 OUTBREAK AND GUIDANCE ON OPERATIONAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR MANAGING THE DISEASE ONBOARD SHIPS**

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With reference to **IMO Circular Letter No. 4204/Add.2** dated 21 February 2020 **ANNEX**, all concerned are hereby informed that the Director General of the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Secretary General of the International Maritime Organization has issued the Joint Statement on 13 February 2020, a copy of which is attached herein, in further response to the COVID-19 outbreak.

It is recalled that the Director-General of WHO has declared the outbreak of COVID-19 as a **Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC)** as advised by the Emergency Committee convened under the International Health Regulations (IHR) (2005) on 30 January 2020.

The said Joint Statement aims to ensure that health measures are being implemented in ways that minimize unnecessary interference with international traffic and trade. The IMO and WHO call upon all States to respect the requirements of "**free pratique**"<sup>1</sup> for ships and the principles of proper care for all travelers and the presentation of unnecessary delays to ships, to persons and properties onboard, taking into consideration the need to prevent the introduction or spread of the dreadful COVID-19.

In addition to the said Joint Statement, all concerned, especially those involved in public health, are hereby informed that IMO has issued another **Circular Letter No. 4204/Add.3** dated 2 March 2020. This Circular covers interim guidance dated 24 February 2020 prepared by WHO, entitled: "**Operational Considerations for Managing COVID-19 Cases/Outbreak Onboard Ships.**"

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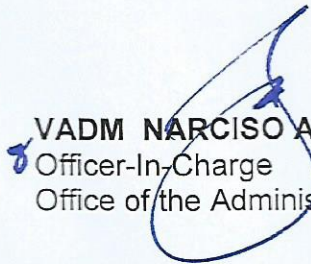
<sup>1</sup> **Free Pratique** is the license given to a ship to enter port on assurance from the captain to convince the authorities that it is free from contagious disease.

The basis for this guidance is the current evidence about the transmission of COVID-19 disease which is the human-to-human transmission via respiratory droplets or direct contact with an infected individual. It is recommended that this guidance be used with the Handbook for Management of Public Health Events on Board Ships.

It is likewise informed that the International Health Regulation (IHR) of 2005 States Parties committed to provide a public health response to the international spread of the said dreadful disease "in ways that are commensurate with and restricted to public health risks, and which avoid unnecessary interference with international traffic and trade." While the IMO's Convention of the Facilitation of Maritime Traffic (known as FAL Convention) states that non-Parties to the IHR shall endeavor to apply the IHR to international shipping.


Finally, please be advised that a copy of the above-mentioned guidance of WHO can be downloaded at the MARINA website at [www.marina.gov.ph](http://www.marina.gov.ph).

For the information and compliance of all concerned.

  
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