



COVID-19 Risk Mitigation Protocols for the Fishing Sector in the Pacific

Pacific Observers Training

20 July 2021

The following protocols were developed to assist and guide the fishing sector, flag States, coastal and island State governments manage the health and economic impacts of COVID-19 on the fishing industry in the Pacific islands region.


The protocols have been divided into two different categories:

1. **General COVID-19 Risk Mitigation Protocols** - for all involved in vessel operations (including vessel crew, stevedores, authorities, technicians, etc.) should practice each day
2. **Activity-specific COVID-19 Risk Mitigation and Control Protocols** - to be implemented in the course of routine fishing operations

**These protocols are drawn from guidance provided by international organisations, including recommendations from the World Health Organization (WHO), the International Maritime Organization (IMO), The Pacific Community (SPC) and the Pacific Islands Forum.*


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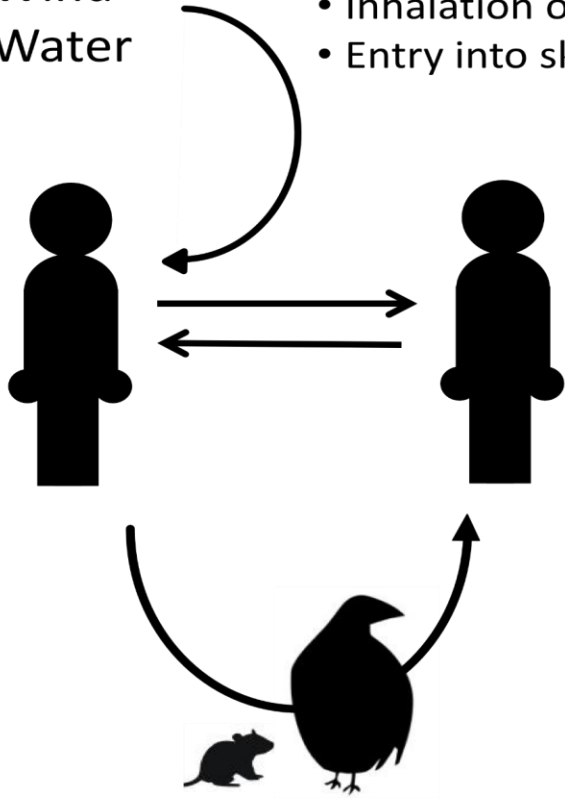
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Modes of Infectious Disease Transmission

A. General Transmission

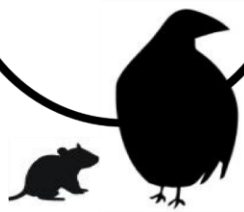
Abiotic environmental factors

- Wind
- Water
- Inhalation of spores
- Entry into skin



Animal vectors

- Mosquitoes (malaria, dengue)
- Fleas (bubonic plague)



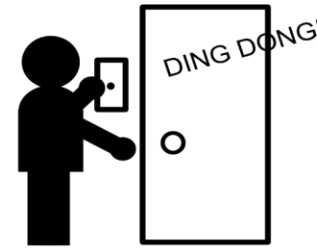
B. Human to Human Transmission

Direct Contact



- Pathogen survives best inside the body
- Eg: HIV, Herpesviruses, Ebola

Indirect Contact



- Pathogen survives harsh environment
- Pick up pathogen from surface or air
- Eg Influenza, norovirus

Droplets



- Pathogens are in droplets, but do not survive long this way
- Eg: Ebola, *Bordetella pertussis*

Airborne



- Pathogens aerosolized and stay infective
- Eg: Influenza, Tuberculosis

Fecal - Oral



- Through contaminated water or food
- Eg: Cholera, Norovirus, Shigella

General COVID-19 Risk Mitigation Protocols

1. Maintain good personal hygiene
2. Practice physical distancing on board vessel
3. Maintaining, cleaning and disinfecting surfaces on the vessel
4. Regular health checks
5. Monitoring vessel contact

General COVID-19 Risk Mitigation Protocols

1. Maintain good personal hygiene

- Avoid touching your face (eyes, nose and mouth)
- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue or do so into your elbow when coughing and sneezing
- Clean your hands regularly with soap and water for 40-60 seconds or, alternatively, with an alcohol-based hand rub (> 60% ethanol) for at least 20 seconds
- Ensure adequate liquid soap and paper towels for drying hands in communal handwashing facilities.
- Place posters around handwashing facilities to show how to correctly wash and dry hands.

When coughing and sneezing, cover your nose and mouth with a tissue or a flexed elbow



Throw the tissue into a closed bin immediately after use

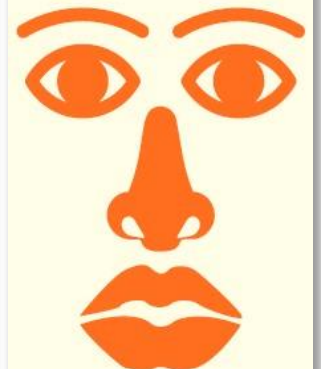


Clean your hands with an alcohol-based hand rub or with soap and water for at least 20 seconds:

- After coughing or sneezing
- When caring for the sick
- Before, during and after preparing food
- Before eating
- After toilet use
- When hands are visibly dirty



Avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth



Hand hygiene: Soap and water procedure for 40 – 60 seconds

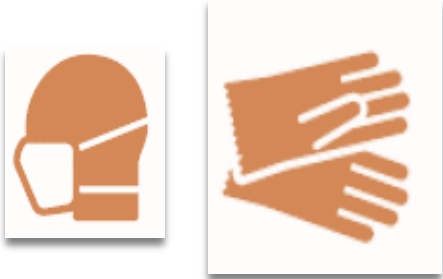
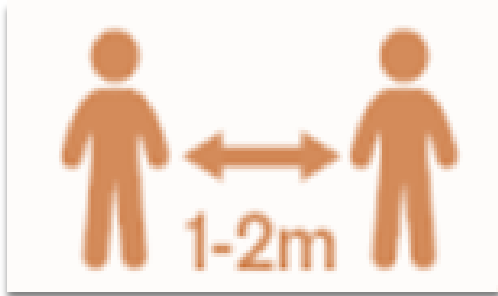


Hand hygiene: Alcohol procedure for 20 - 30 seconds



General COVID-19 Risk Mitigation Protocols

2. Practise physical distancing on board vessel

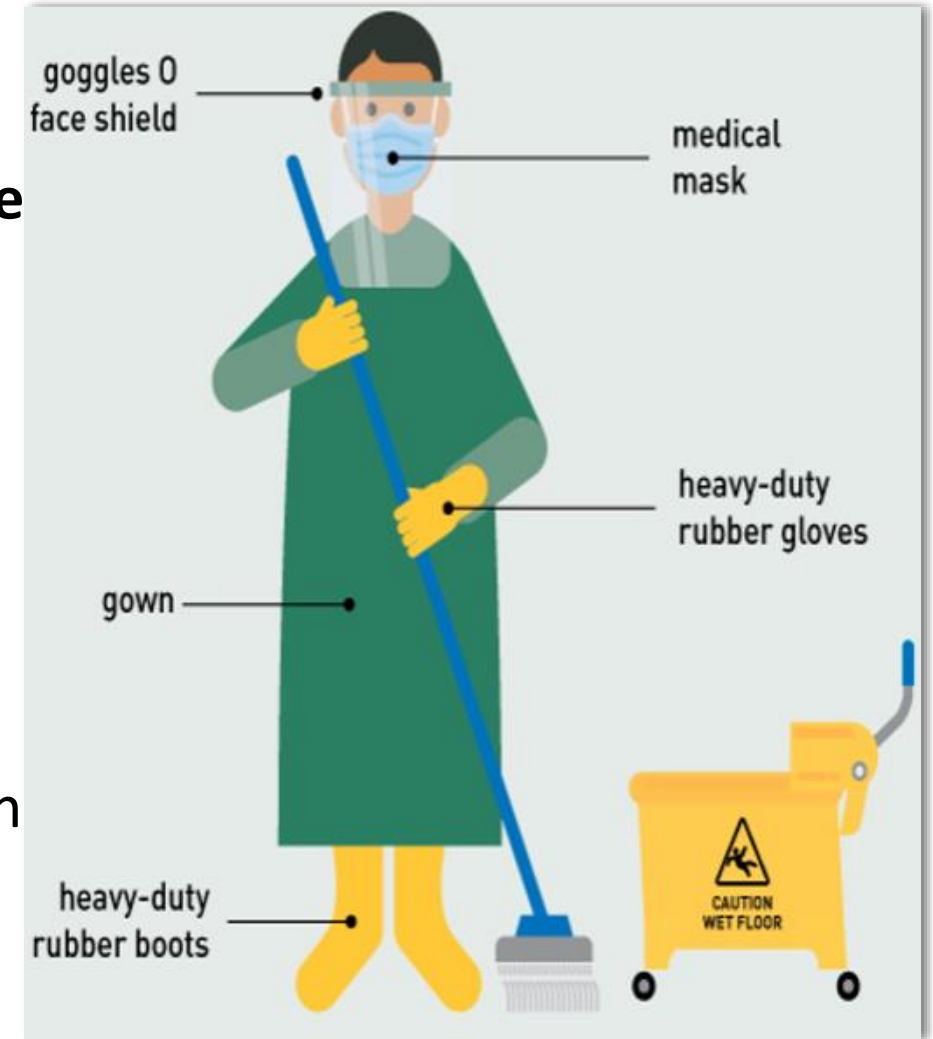


- Physical distancing (**keeping at least 1 metre apart**) should be maintained at all times
- Appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) should be worn including:
 - *Medical or fabric face masks at all times when in communal areas*
 - *Disposable gloves when handling tools and equipment*
- Ensure daily work and tasks are assigned to the crew to minimise contact and proximity with other crew to the extent possible
- Spend time outside on deck when possible, with face mask on but maintaining physical distance as recommended with other crew

General COVID-19 Risk Mitigation Protocols

3. Maintaining, cleaning and disinfecting surfaces on the vessel

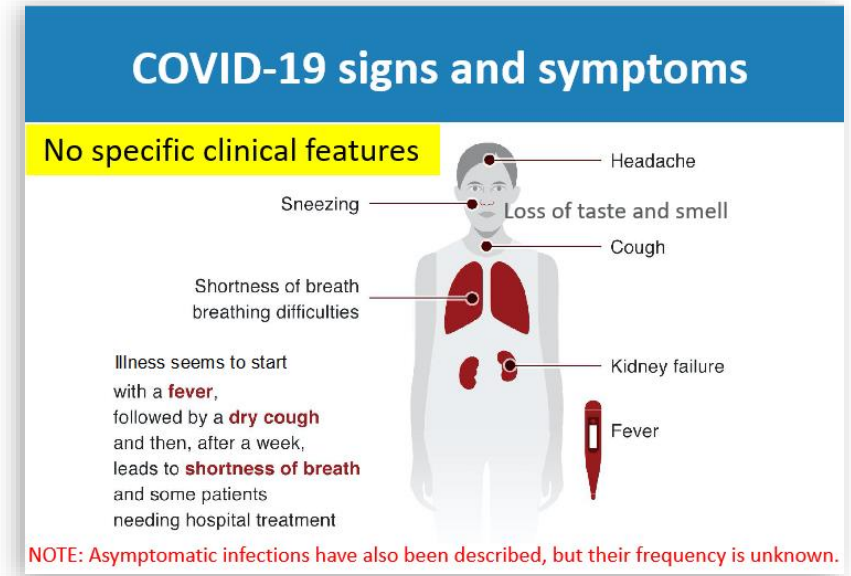
- Ensure cabin/personal living areas, common room tables, tools and equipment and commonly touched surfaces (e.g. door handles, taps, light switches) **are wiped down at least once a day, with an appropriate disinfectant**
- **Cleaners should wear appropriate PPE and be trained to use them safely**
- All reusable cleaning cloths should be **washed immediately in hot soapy water**, before drying.
- Port states may require a deep clean as part of their COVID-19 management regimes. **‘Deep clean’** refers to a cleaning and sanitising regimen that is more thorough and extensive than current procedures with a focus on surfaces that may have been exposed to the COVID-19 virus.



General COVID-19 Risk Mitigation Protocols

4. Regular health checks

- All vessel personnel should be informed of common symptoms of COVID-19 and asked to monitor and immediately report any of these symptoms to the Captain or vessel owner
- Captain or vessel owner should immediately report any COVID-19 symptoms on board to relevant flag, coastal, and port State health authorities and seek further guidance
- Captain or vessel owner should ensure sufficient quantity of non-contact infrared thermometers or thermal scanners on board.
- All crew should have their temperature taken at consistent 24-hour intervals
- Captain or vessel owner should maintain a confidential logbook recording temperature readings and any symptoms of COVID-19 against each crew member's name.
- Captain or vessel owner should provide information to health authorities at the next port of destination before arrival



COVID-19

Shipboard care for people with suspected or confirmed COVID-19

Report immediately to intended port state health authorities and other relevant flag state and coastal state authorities.

Seek guidance on a suitable destination port where COVID-19 cases can be managed.

General COVID-19 Risk Mitigation Protocols

5. Monitoring vessel contact

- Generally, vessels should have no contact with another vessel, and be COVID-19 symptom-free for at least 14 days before interacting with other vessels or with other fishing operations
- Vessels should maintain details of contact with other vessels while at sea (e.g., for transshipment or bunkering).



End of Presentation