PORTS IN THE FIGHT AGAINST COVID-19
Best Practices & Recommendations

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BACKGROUND

COVID-19 measures taken by states worldwide (216 countries & areas):

- Closed border
- Restricted travel
- Grounded airplanes
- Physical distancing
- Stringent containment
- Quarantine

-77% Trade Value

➢ Choking off global supply chains
➢ Disrupting Ocean Supply Chains
➢ Economic fallout near stand still: The Great Lockdown

Impeding movement of the goods and workers needed to keep the world economy alive
MAIN GOAL

Ports’ operations continuity under COVID-19 pandemic

- Ports are national strategic assets
- Keep supply chains open in particular for vital merchandise
- Allow maritime trade to continue
- Protect critical staff in their daily tasks
- Ports are front row actors’ to stop the spread of the pandemic but let the goods through
BEST PRACTICES

Based on documentation (75) from UNCTAD TrainForTrade Port Network and other relevant entities, the following measures have been implemented/observed and could serve as generic guidelines:

- Respect physical distancing rules – stay 2 metres apart
- Constantly promote and enforce preventive hygiene measures (handwashing)
- Limit physical interaction between onboard and onshore staff
- Ship crew should communicate with quayside staff by radio or telephone
- Increase the use of digital documentation to limit human contact to the minimum
- Provide adequate and sufficient protective equipment to the staff (face masks, gloves, hand sanitizers, glasses)
- Introduce sanitation routine of surfaces in regular contact with hands
- Facilitate seafarer's rotation as per IMO protocols for welfare and safe operations (comply with international maritime regulation)

1.2 M seafarers
BEST PRACTICES

- Establish a point of control in the perimeter of the port area to monitor temperature and related symptoms (automated temperature screening) and equip it with anti-bacterial solutions and sanitizers
- Establish a waste disposal policy for “suspicious” cases
- Fumigate and disinfect all passenger terminals/areas
- Implement a passenger information tracking system
- Define isolated holding and testing area for COVID-19 symptomatic port users
- Identify decontamination areas in the port buildings
- Deliver essential medical supplies, fuel, water, spare parts and provisions to ships
- Institute a protocol for disembarking passengers/crew requiring immediate medical care in coordination with the national health authority (ILO Maritime Labour Convention 2006)
- Disinfect and monitor cargo?
CRISIS PROTOCOL

Generic Crisis Protocol to be further elaborated by each port community based on 4 colour-coded levels of intervention:

| LEVEL 1 | International emergency declared  
| No cases in the country |
| LEVEL 2 | Confirmed cases in the country  
| No cases in the port |
| LEVEL 3 | Confirmed cases in the country  
| Suspicious cases in the port |
| LEVEL 4 | Increased cases in the country  
| Confirmed cases in the port  
| Several staff are sick |

https://tft.unctad.org/ports-covid-19/
WHAT NEXT?

- Boost Internet: Connectivity is a “public good”
- Increase connectivity and data exchange in Global Supply Chains
  - PCS, Blockchain?
- Shorter, more diversified and regional supply chains
- Relocations supported by advanced automation and related labour costs reduction
- Port regional cooperation to build more resilient trade node
- CSR: Reaching out to the most vulnerable
- Designing new policies for ports to build stronger resilience
- Push for online trainings and certification (what %?)

- Development of a TFT special course: “Building Port Resilience Against Pandemics”
UNCTAD PORT MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME COVERAGE: 60 COUNTRIES

WORLDWIDE NETWORKS
Leaving no one behind

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