

# PROCEDURES FOR EMBARKING AND DISEMBARKING CREWS OF SHIPS AND PLATFORMS

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NATIONAL HEALTH SURVEILLANCE AGENCY (ANVISA)  
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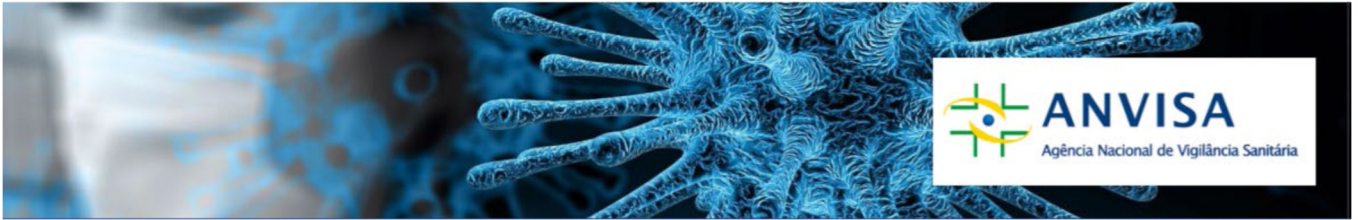
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Agência Nacional de Vigilância Sanitária



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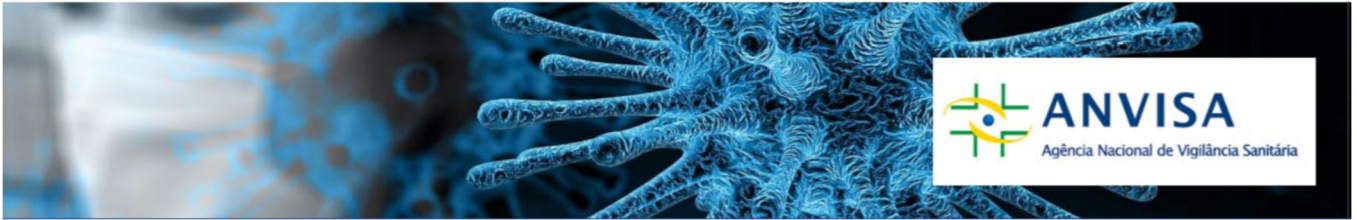
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## PROCEDURES FOR EMBARKING AND DISEMBARKING CREW MEMBERS OF SHIPS AND PLATFORMS

On 11 March 2020, the World Health Organization classified the disease caused by the 2019 Coronavirus (COVID-19) as a pandemic. It means that the virus is circulating in all continents with the occurrence of asymptomatic cases, which hinders identification. In this way, particularly in the southern hemisphere, where Brazil is, countries must prepare for the autumn/winter, with the aim of avoiding severe cases and deaths, as highlighted in the Epidemiological Bulletin No. 05 of the Ministry of Health. Thus:

In consideration of Ordinance 454/2020, which declares the status of community transmission of coronaviruses (COVID-19).

In consideration of Ordinance 356/2020, which establishes the rules and operationalisation of the provisions laid down in Law no. 13,979 of 6 February 2020, which determines the measures to cope with the public health emergency of international concern due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19).

It becomes necessary to screen crew members who will sign on for duty on board ships, for timely identification of symptomatic patients who can disseminate the SARS-CoV-2 in their workplace. The definition of this measure, to reduce the spread of SARS-CoV-2, favours the operational continuity because it makes possible eventual replacements.

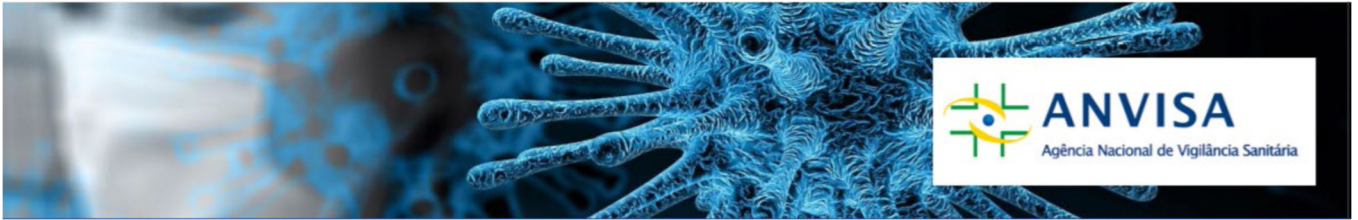
### Definitions:

**Isolation** – it is a measure that seeks to separate the ill persons (individuals with respiratory symptoms, suspected or actual cases of infection by coronaviruses) from those not sick to prevent the spread of the virus. Isolation may be held at home or in a hospital environment, according to the clinical status of the person. This action can be prescribed by a doctor or an epidemiological surveillance agent for a maximum period of 14 days (Ordinance 356/2020). In the prescription of isolation, the patient must sign a consent form and follow the directions to avoid the contagion of their household contacts.

**Quarantine** – it is the restriction of activities or separation of people who were presumably exposed to a contagious disease, yet are not ill (because they were not infected or because they are in the incubation period). The quarantine can be applied at an individual level, for example: for a person who returns from an international trip or for household contacts of suspected or confirmed of coronaviruses; or collective level, for example: quarantine of a vessel, a neighbourhood or a city, and usually involves the restriction on the domicile or other designated location. It may be voluntary or mandatory.

\*Definitions adapted from [https://www.ufrgs.br/telessauders/posts\\_coronavirus/qual-a-diferenca-de-distanciamento-social-isolamento-e-quarentena/](https://www.ufrgs.br/telessauders/posts_coronavirus/qual-a-diferenca-de-distanciamento-social-isolamento-e-quarentena/)

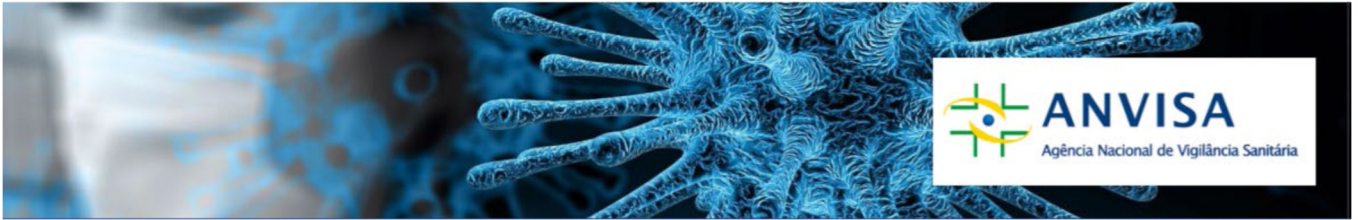




## PROCEDURES FOR EMBARKATION

### SCREENING OF CREW MEMBERS WHO COMMENCE WORK SCHEDULES ON SHIPS AND PLATFORMS

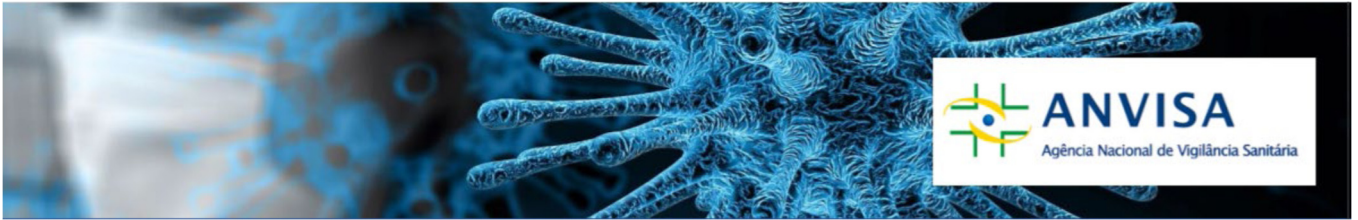
1. The crew members must comply with quarantine for 14 days at home or in a hotel chain before the scheduled date of boarding, at the discretion of the shipowner. Such information about the form/place of quarantine must always be available to the Health Authority upon request.
2. During the quarantine period at home (Table 1), the shipping companies/shipowners and operators of platforms must monitor the health of the crew and guide them on preventive care. These actions must be carried out by health professionals responsible for the distance monitoring (remotely – by teleconsultation) of the crew. During the evaluation of health, the crew member will be questioned, at least twice per day, as to the presence of signs and symptoms (including information about body temperature).
3. During the quarantine period in hotels (Table 2), the shipping companies/ shipowners and operations of platforms should monitor the health of the crew and guide them on preventive care. These actions must be carried out by health professionals responsible for the distance monitoring (remotely – by teleconsultation) of the crew. During the evaluation of health, the crew member will be questioned, at least twice per day, as to the presence of signs and symptoms (including information about body temperature).
4. The crew members who, within the 14 days of health monitoring, presented respiratory symptoms and/or fever must be prevented from boarding and undergo home isolation (Table 3) for at least 14 days from the date of onset of symptoms. The crew member must be instructed to seek medical assistance in case of worsening of general state, especially shortness of breath.
5. In the event of a symptomatic crew member, the determination of the isolation measure shall be by way of medical prescription and accompanied by the free will and consent of the patient as laid down in the Ordinance MS/GM No. 356 of 11 March 2020, Annex I.
6. The crew member should be instructed to inform if a person that shares a residence with him have a positive diagnosis of COVID-19. In this situation, all residents must also undergo mandatory isolation for 14 days, from the onset of symptoms.
7. The crew member who, within the 14 days of health monitoring health, did not present symptoms consistent with COVID-19 will be able to embark. In this case, the company shall provide the log of medical examination performed in the previous 14 days and on the date of boarding.



8. The evaluation of the health of the crew able to embark, held on the day of boarding, shall be sent to the local health authority for information, including a quick test, whenever possible.
9. The transfer from home to the place of embarkation shall be performed according to the recommendations of standard precaution and use of cloth mask. The transfer may not occur in public transportation and should be performed using a private vehicle provided by the company. The crew member must be advised to take the rear seat, with windows open and air-conditioning (HVAC system) off.
10. Before the embarkation, the guidelines on preventive measures to avoid contamination by SARS-CoV-2 must be reinforced. The crew must also be advised regarding the procedures to be followed in the case of a health event on board, as outlined in the "Protocol - Detection and Care of Suspected Cases of Covid-19 in Ports, Airports and Borders" (available at [https://www.ufrgs.br/telessauders/posts\\_coronavirus/qual-a-diferenca-de-distanciamento-social-isolamento-e-quarentena/](https://www.ufrgs.br/telessauders/posts_coronavirus/qual-a-diferenca-de-distanciamento-social-isolamento-e-quarentena/)) and in the local Contingency Plans.
11. The return to work of crew members who remained in isolation may only occur after the disappearance of symptoms and a new medical examination. And the return to work will be conditioned to the crew member being asymptomatic for at least 72 hours.

## PROCEDURES FOR DISEMBARK

1. The shipping companies/shipowners and operators of platforms should concentrate the landing of suspected cases in places with better medical care support, as authorised by the Health Authority and observing the locations indicated by it.
2. The authorisation for the landing of the Brazilian crew with mild symptoms for undergoing isolation (Table 3) at home or in hotels will be provided upon medical assessment (as defined in the Contingency Plan in place) and a guarantee of safe transfer to the location designated for isolation.
3. The symptomatic crew member (suspect case) must be notified about the measure of isolation for at least 14 days, as determined by medical prescription (doctor appointed by the company/ agency), with the completion of the consent form provided for in Ordinance MS/GM No. 356 of 11 March 2020, Annex I. The crew should be instructed to wear a surgical mask until the location where he should stay in isolation and seek medical assistance in case of worsening of general state, especially shortness of breath.



4. In addition to the use of surgical mask, the transfer to the site of isolation may not occur in public transportation and should be performed using a private vehicle provided by the company. The crew must be advised to take the rear seat, with the windows open and air-conditioning (HVAC system) off. The driver should also be instructed to wear a surgical mask. (See Guidelines on Cleaning and Disinfection of Vehicles - Table 4).
5. Close contacts should also be instructed regarding the need for isolation for 14 days. The isolation measure by recommendation will be made through a notification expressly to the person contacted, duly substantiated, observed the model laid down in Annex II of the Ordinance MS/GM No. 356 of 11 March 2020.
6. Health professionals appointed by the company must accompany the crew member daily throughout isolation. If requested by the Health Authority of the port, the logs of the medical evaluation performed during the period of confinement should be sent daily.
7. The landing of an asymptomatic crewmember, after the completion of his duties on board, should occur after health assessment, including a quick test, whenever possible. In case of reported symptoms or positive result of the rapid test, the crew should be instructed as to the need for implementation of isolation at home or in a hotel (Table 3).
8. The health guidelines to be observed for completion of quarantine or isolation in hotels are in the "Protocol for quarantine of travellers in hotels" available at <http://portal.anvisa.gov.br/documents/219201/4340788/Recomenda%C3%A7%C3%A3o+de+Quarentena+em+Hoteis+ANVISA+COVID-19+atualizado+em+13abril20.pdf/1d17267f-c1bb-4341-ab5a-402ecc2d041b>.

## THE USE OF RAPID TESTS

- The implementation of rapid tests may be part of the health assessment, subject to availability.
- If prioritisation is required for the use of the tests, we recommend that they are used in crew members who present signs and symptoms. It is noteworthy that, in these cases, the greater effectiveness of testing occurs after the 7<sup>th</sup> day of symptoms.
- It is emphasised that the negative result of the rapid test should not impact the adoption of existing health recommendations for the Covid-19, considering the possibility of false-negative results.

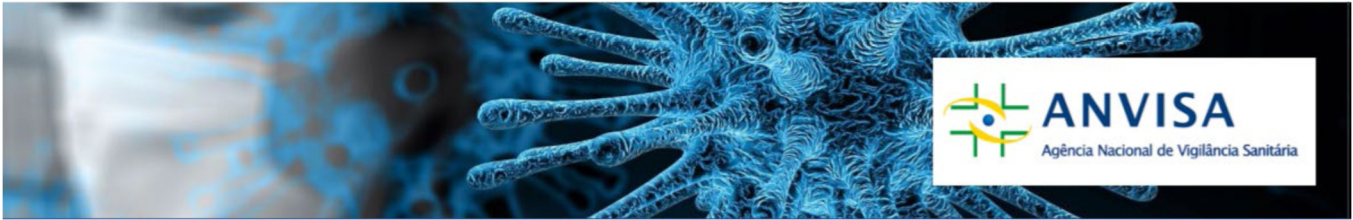


Table 1

GUIDELINES FOR HOME QUARANTINE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stay in home isolation for 14 days;</li> <li>• Follow the standard preventive recommendations: wash your hands frequently with water and soap or, when the hands are visibly dirty, use alcohol in gel 70%; maintain respiratory etiquette (use paper tissue for nose hygiene, cover nose and mouth when coughing or sneezing), avoid touching the eye, nose and mouth mucosae if your hands are unclean;</li> <li>• Keep a distance of at least 2 metres from other persons.</li> <li>• Wear a reusable cloth mask, following the guidelines of the Ministry of Health or Anvisa for sanitation and disinfection of cloth masks;</li> <li>• Avoid the circulation of non-resident persons;</li> <li>• Monitor your health for COVID-19 symptoms and report symptoms to the shipping company/ employer</li> <li>• Keep the rooms well ventilated.</li> </ul>

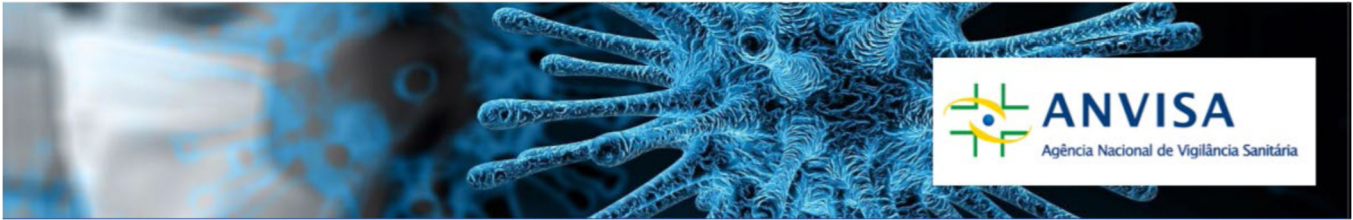
Table 2

GUIDELINES FOR QUARANTINE IN HOTELS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The quarantine must be observed for 14 days before boarding;</li> <li>• Follow the standard preventive recommendations: wash your hands frequently with water and soap or, when the hands are visibly dirty, use alcohol in gel 70%; maintain respiratory etiquette (use paper tissue for nose hygiene, cover nose and mouth when coughing or sneezing), avoid touching the eye, nose and mouth mucosae if your hands are unclean;</li> <li>• Have your meals preferably in the room. If it is not possible, keep a distance of at least 2 metres from other persons.</li> <li>• Wear a reusable cloth mask, following the guidelines of the Ministry of Health or Anvisa for sanitation and disinfection of cloth masks;</li> <li>• Avoid circulating in the hotel premises;</li> <li>• Monitor your health for COVID-19 symptoms and report symptoms to the shipping company/ employer</li> <li>• Keep the rooms well ventilated.</li> </ul>

Table 3

GUIDELINES FOR COMPULSORY QUARANTINE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stay in home isolation for 14 days;</li> <li>• Wear a disposal surgical mask at all times;</li> <li>• Should you need to cook, wear a protection mask, covering mouth and nose at all times;</li> <li>• After using the toilet, wash your hands with water and soap and always clean the toilet seat, sink and other surfaces with alcohol 70% or sodium hypochlorite for disinfection of the room;</li> <li>• Separate bath towels, forks, knives, spoons, glasses and other objects only for the use of the symptomatic person;</li> <li>• The refuse produced need to be separated and discarded – preferably with the use of individual trash bins and double bags;</li> <li>• The clothing (bed and personal) of the crew member in isolation must be washed separately from the others;</li> </ul>





- Coaches and chairs may not be shared and need to be frequently cleaned up with sodium hypochlorite or alcohol 70%;
- Keep the window open for air circulation in the room used for isolation and the door shut; clean the knob frequently with sodium hypochlorite or alcohol 70%;
- Clean the furniture regularly with sodium hypochlorite or alcohol 70%.

In case the patient does not live alone, the other residents must sleep in another room, away from the infected person, also observing the following recommendations, besides those mentioned above:

- Keep a minimum distance of 1 metre between the patient and the other dwellers;

In case a second person in the home has an onset of symptoms, he must reinitiate the isolation for 14 days. That is, he must undergo 14-day isolation from the beginning of his symptoms.

Table 4

#### PROCEDURES FOR SANITATION OF CONVEYANCES USED FOR TRANSFER OF SUSPECTED OR CONFIRMED CASES OF COVID-19

All the touchable surfaces and material must be sanitised, particularly: doorknobs, handles, seat belts, hand grips, dashboards, pullers, among others. The cleaning must be done with water and soap, and the disinfection must be done with alcohol 70% (70% INPM) or sodium hypochlorite 0.5%. Observe the use of Personal Protective Equipment for the activity.