

Sent: 30 January 2020 19:55

Subject: Brazil - Coronavirus (nCoV) - Update II

Dear All,

Further to our last circular on the above topic issued on 26 January (attached hereto), please see below an update on the scenario in Brazil.

At the time of writing there are 9 suspected cases of nCoV being followed by the National Sanitary Authority (ANVISA) in the country, but no confirmations of actual infections by the virus.

ANVISA has also issued Technical Note No 4/2020/SEI/GIMTV/GGPAF/DIRE5/ANVISA (also attached hereto). As a summary, the text is a recap of the guidelines from the World Health Organisation (WHO) in relation to the NCoV. Below you can find an office translation of the element of the text specifically applicable to ports and vessels.

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Specific guidelines for ports and vessels:

First, it should be noted that a vessel journey between China and Brazil takes much longer than 14 days, the incubation period required in this case. The average time for a vessel to travel between China and Brazil is 45 days. Thus, based on the risk assessment carried out so far, the following stands out:

- With the intensification of surveillance to detect possible suspected cases of 2019-nCoV and response, it is essential that the Maritime Health Declaration is filled out correctly and in a complete form for evaluation regarding the issue of Free Pratique. It is worth mentioning that requests for Free Pratique must occur between 48 or 72 hours in advance, which allows for a prior assessment by Anvisa, before the authorisation for berthing (Free Pratique issuance).
- Any change in the health status of the crew or passengers must be reported immediately to the Health Authority.
- In the case of a 2019-nCoV suspect on the vessel, the Free Pratique will be issued on board, with the triggering of the local Contingency Plan and the removal of the designated crew member to hospital will be considered if necessary.
- According to the epidemiological bulletin (Vol. 51, no 04) of the Ministry of Health, suspected cases should be isolated and use surgical masks.
- Any other crew member who comes into contact with the suspected case must wear PPE (surgical mask; eye shield or face shield; gloves; cloak / apron).

We also emphasize the general recommendations released by WHO and the Ministry of Health:

- Wash your hands frequently, with soap and water or alcohol, especially before consuming any food.

- Cover your mouth and nose when coughing and sneezing.
- Avoid touching mucous eyes, nose and mouth.
- Hand wash after coughing or sneezing.
- Keep environments well-ventilated.
- Do not share objects for personal use, such as cutlery, plates, glasses or bottles.
- When visiting food markets in areas with new coronavirus (2019-nCoV) cases, avoid direct contact with live animals and surfaces in contact with animals.
- The consumption of raw or undercooked animal products should be avoided. Raw meat, milk or animal organs must be handled with care to avoid cross-contamination with uncooked food, in accordance with good food safety practices.

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Please let us know in case of any doubts. As usual, our team of qualified physicians headed by Dr Michelline Mesquita is at your disposal for any necessary assistance. We shall update you further if / when the scenario changes locally.

Regards,

The (Medical) Team

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www.brazmar.com

AOH: +55 (98) 41410286 / 982397434 / 981982188 / 984393504

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