

Kingston, Jamaica - Friday, April 17, 2020

**ADDITIONAL SAFETY MEASURES AND PROTOCOLS FOR THE MANAGEMENT
OF THE NOVEL CORNOAVIRUS || COVID-19 AT SEAPORTS**

In response to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) phenomenon, the Port Authority of Jamaica (PAJ) has proactively introduced additional safety measures and systems to ensure the protection of employees, stakeholders and users of the seaports in general. The PAJ continues to be vigilant and unyielding in its efforts to prevent the spread of any communicable disease while it consistently communicates with and sensitizes its stakeholders and the public on initiatives being introduced for their protection as well as to enhance safety systems at Jamaica's seaports.

These supplementary safety measures and protocols are aimed at mitigating against a widespread outbreak from the seaside and to facilitate plans designed to contain and reduce the adverse impacts of the Coronavirus, in Jamaica. The following auxiliary safety measures and protocols were implemented since February, 2020:

- Specialized information on the management of COVID-19 garnered from the World Health Organization (WHO), Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and the Ministry of Health and Wellness (MoHW) was disseminated to all ports.
- All Port Facility Security Officers (PFSOs) were directed to host ongoing sensitization sessions with their staff and all stakeholders that interface with ship personnel and passengers.

- All ports are required to provide timely updates on the progress and issues that may arise from their sensitization training sessions including those with the MoHW. The PAJ is monitoring and ensuring that these sessions are being conducted on an ongoing basis.
- New updates and developments from the WHO, PAHO and MoHW are disseminated to ports as they are received
- The PAJ and port operators have installed hand sanitization dispensers and handwashing station at all of its ports.
- Temperature checks are being carried out at the access to port facilities and employees are required to wear mask whilst transiting public spaces and the terminals.

There are existing border protection mechanisms and systems to mitigate against the spread of infectious diseases. The PAJ is also actively pursuing the procurement of heat sensing scanners as an additional measure at the ports for the detection of persons with abnormal temperatures. Additionally, the Authority is also in the process of establishing isolation rooms at its ports for quarantine purposes should the need arise.

The PAJ seeks to assure employees, stakeholders and the public that their safety and security are of utmost importance and systems are in place to ensure compliance with all measures. Generally, all ships that are fully compliant with the MoHW protocols and have fulfilled the requirements are granted access to berth at our ports. The PAJ has been collaborating with the MoHW, ensuring that vessels are aware of the requirements to enter Jamaican ports, sensitizing them to the information required ahead of time, while ensuring the information is provided on arrival to allow the professionals at the MoHW to effectively and efficiently make decisions. All ships are required to comply with the MoHW decisions.