



COVID-19 Task Force – Guidance on Masks

Update January 7 2022

The arrival of Omicron variant of the COVID-19 virus has resulted in the explosive growth of COVID-19 cases through out Canada and the rest of the world. In a very short period of time, the heavy case load due to the Omicron variant has resulted in medical systems reaching critical capacities and the re introduction of more public health restrictive measures.

Because of the Omicron variant, the company guidance on the required wearing of masks has been changed again and **now covers all crew members**; no matter how long they have been onboard the vessel. All crew are to be wearing a proper fitting N95 or equivalent mask when onboard and attempt to maintain a physical distance of 2 metres whenever possible. Exceptions to this requirement would be when working alone outdoors.

Further additional measures will apply to crew members who have Anti Gen Rapid tested negative upon joining and are still within their first 14 days of being onboard. These crew members should limit their interactions with other crew to what is necessary to fulfil their responsibilities. This would include curbing social interactions with other crew members and eat meals in their room during the first 14 days.

All pilots, contractors, Superintendents and any other 3rd party must wear N95 or equivalent mask at all times when on the vessel and maintain a physical distance of 2 metres whenever possible. Captains and Chiefs have the authority and are expected to enforce this requirement and provide masks if needed.

Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in early 2020, we have taken the appropriate measures to keep everyone safe onboard and carry on our essential role in sustaining the marine transportation system. What we have done through out this pandemic has always been in response to both current and anticipated conditions. The additional measures mentioned above do add further restrictions to shipboard operations, but are required to control any spread of the Omicron variant within our fleet. Mask wearing and physical distancing are critical key measures that have to be taken to defend against the virus. If you let your guard down, the virus will end up winning.

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Algoma COVID-19 Task Force

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