



Weekly Update on COVID-19 in China

Week 41 of 2021

News Review

- **Coronavirus-related case reporting after vessels sailed from a China port**
 - For the purpose of trailing and identifying potential infectious risks, in some Chinese ports, vessels are obliged to report to port authority via ship's agents immediately any COVID-19 infection or suspected cases on board within 21 days after departing the port, breach of this will cause severe penalty imposing on the vessel and her Owner/Charterer/Manager.

- **Borders might open if vaccination target reached by early 2022**
 - China may open its borders after it vaccinates over 85 percent of its population by early 2022, said Gao Fu, head of the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention, in a recent interview.

 - The current epidemic control measures against COVID-19 in China have won a lot of time to produce enough vaccines and inoculate people, he told news outlet ifeng. If the vaccination rate can reach more than 85 percent in early 2022, there will be few infections and none of those infected would be in serious condition or die. Besides, the virulence of the coronavirus is also decreasing, according to Gao.

 - When the prevalence and fatality rate of COVID-19 are more like that of the flu, and it seems it would co-exist with humans, the efforts to root out the virus will be a protracted war, he said. "In that case, we should continue to vaccinate more people, develop new vaccines, and especially, produce effective drugs."

 - He added since it's still possible for vaccinated people to get infected, it's important for everyone to keep wearing masks, maintain social distancing and wash their hands frequently.

- **China clears all COVID-19 high-risk areas**
 - China has cleared all its COVID-19 high-risk areas, as Northeast China's Heilongjiang province downgraded its last two high-risk areas on Monday.

 - Starting at midnight on Monday, two towns in Bayan county of Harbin were downgraded to low-risk, according to the municipal epidemic prevention and control headquarters.

 - As of Tuesday, only nine medium-risk areas remain in the country, all in the city of Harbin.



Statistical Data

Foll data released by National Health Commission today (till Tuesday 24:00hrs, Mainland only):

- Existing number of confirmed cases under treatment 645
- Total number of confirmed cases 96,457
- Total number of recovered cases 91,176
- Total number of mortality 4,636

Extraordinary Quarantine Measures

- Crew joining a vessel at foreign ports and arriving in China within 14 days from departure, or joining a vessel from last port before arriving China, must bear a valid nucleic acid test(negative) report issued by a competent testing institution as designated/recognized by local Chinese embassy or consulate within 3 days before boarding.
- Some special quarantine measures were introduced in some ports, for vessels arriving from foreign port and having crew change within 14 days before arrival, those measures include compulsory 14-day quarantine before berthing or crew nucleic acid tests upon berthing, etc. For latest portwise quarantine regulation, please refer to attached summary.
- In view of recent surge of COVID-19 in India and its adjacent regions, some China ports adopt stricter quarantine measures and require PCR tests for crew on the vessels calling Indian ports within 21 days prior to arrival China.
- Please contact us for up-to-date information in regard of latest quarantine requirements prior vessel's arrival for specific port call, as the same may vary day to day.

Port Operations

- Most ports maintain normal working status, though arrived vessels are subject to stricter and more complex quarantine procedure taking remarkable longer period of time prior to being allowed commencement of cargo work
- Cargo operations slowed down recently in certain North China ports, resulting from short power supply, the situation are expected to relieve by the end of the year
- Delay on schedule for vessels bound for the ports in Yangtze river are estimated, due to dedicated piloting arrangement(close-circuit management)



- PCR tests for crew on board are available on request at some ports
- Boarding a ship by shore staff including agents, port authorities, stevedores, etc. becomes more restrictive in many ports, non-contact means for routine port operation are prioritized options
- To prevent from cross infection, crew shore leave temporarily suspended in all China ports, social security distance to be kept between ship's crew and port workers
- Personal protective measures must be in place, for both attending shore staff and crew, e.g. protective gowns, mouth mask, goggles, especially during pilots and stevedores working on board
- Daily disinfection and taking of crew body temperature must be done and reported to port authorities during whole port stay
- Surveyors' attendance and superintendents' visit were limited to those of Chinese nationals only, boarding formalities becomes very complicated and surveyors/superintendents are obliged to provide vaccination certificate and a valid nucleic acid test report issued within 2 days before attendance, 14-day medical isolation may be required after attendance in some ports. However, such attendance and visit are prohibited in some ports or terminals, Local source needs to be consulted before hand for detailed information and restriction in specific ports.

Crew Change

- Foreign crew change are not resumed yet, though emergency repatriation and crew medical first-aid can be arranged in some ports.
- As for Chinese crew change, application will be evaluated by various authorities(customs, MSA, local municipal health commission, etc.) case by case before being approved. All outgoing crew are to have nucleic acid test and 14-day isolation/medical observation in designated hotels.
- In view of different policy in different ports, please consult Oceanfavor Shanghai office for detailed information of a specific port and updated regulations.

Oceanfavor has accomplished several owner's matter in various ports

All Ocean Favor offices stay on alert in front line and keep a sharp eye on the development of Covid-19 at key China ports.



Please contact us on below, in case you have inquires or need help from our end for specific issues, we are available on 24/7/365 basis.

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