



Weekly Update on COVID-19 in China

Week 51 of 2021

News Review

- **Governmental agencies are urged to facilitate crew change of Chinese nationals**
 - An official circular was released by the Joint Prevention & Control Mechanism over Covid-19 of the State Council last week, Foreign Ministry, Communication & Transportation Ministry, National Health Commission, Customs, Immigration and all local governments are ordered to strengthen pandemic control measures and streamline the procedure for crew change of Chinese nationals, reasonable needs from crew to sign on/off must be met with no excuse, urgent medical first-aid/humanity rescue or evacuation should become available all the time, related governmental authorities are supposed to take their responsibilities with due diligence on Covid control and prevention.
- **Cross-provincial travel faces holiday controls**
 - Cross-provincial travel of people living in areas with medium or high risk of COVID-19 infections will be restricted for the upcoming New Year and the Spring Festival holidays, as part of measures to ensure safe and orderly movement amid the anticipated travel rush, authorities said on Monday.
 - People living in district-level regions that have seen new local cases recently and have been identified as medium- or high-risk areas should not travel to other provinces during the two major holidays, the State Council's Joint Prevention and Control Mechanism said in a circular.
 - Transport workers responsible for shipping materials and public sector workers on business trips are exempt from the rule, but they should present negative testing results taken 48 hours before leaving, according to the circular.
 - For people who live in a low-risk district but in a city that has at least one medium- or high-risk district, they are advised against traveling to other provinces except for essential reasons, and they must provide negative testing results, it said.
 - High risk workers, including staff members at centralized isolation facilities, designated hospitals, fever clinics and cold chain plants, should avoid long-distance trips during the holidays, said the circular.
 - Colleges and enterprises are required to adjust their schedules for winter breaks and holidays to facilitate staggered travel of students and workers, it added.



- Cross-provincial tourism will also be curbed, especially in regions experiencing recent local outbreaks and in land port cities.
- These requirements take effect immediately and will be in effect until March 15.
- The circular was released as the three-day New Year holiday that starts on Jan 1 and the seven-day holiday for the Spring Festival, beginning on Jan 31, are approaching.
- **Xi'an making all-out efforts to contain virus**
 - A COVID-19 outbreak was in a "rapid development" stage in Xi'an, capital of Shaanxi province, and a second round of citywide nucleic acid testing was launched on Tuesday morning to stem the virus' spread.
 - Xi'an reported 42 locally transmitted confirmed cases on Monday, making a total of 91 confirmed cases since the outbreak started on Dec 9.
 - On Saturday, provincial health officials identified all locally confirmed cases as being the highly transmissible Delta variant, and preliminary research showed that the new wave of infections in Shaanxi was a domestic outbreak resulting from virus carriers arriving from abroad.
 - Travelers arriving in and leaving Xi'an by car or bus have been required to show proof of a negative nucleic acid test conducted in the previous 48 hours, the city's transport officials said.
 - Xi'an Xianyang International Airport issued a notice on Sunday that travel for people from medium- or high-risk areas in the city would be limited and passengers from other areas of the city could leave after showing a certificate of negative nucleic acid testing within 48 hours.
 - All kindergartens and primary and secondary schools in the city suspended in-class instruction on Monday and began online classes, the headquarters said.

Statistical Data

- Foll data released by National Health Commission today (till Tuesday 24:00hrs, Mainland only):
- Existing number of confirmed cases under treatment 1,765
 - Total number of confirmed cases 100,544
 - Total number of recovered cases 94,143
 - 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. Please refer to attached portwise summary.
- In view of recent surge of COVID-19 in India and some high risk countries/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, such quarantine procedures vary quite frequently matching up the prevailing epidemic situation.
- Bunker replenishment(with no cargo work) only at Hong Kong was not allowed, if vessels come from high risk countries/regions within 21 days before arrival, these high risk countries/regions are defined and modified by governmental authorities, latest list of high risk countries/regions are available upon request.
- 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. In some ports, crew are obliged to stay in their living area, not allowed to go on deck unless necessary



- 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 14 days prior to arrival and 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 emergent 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.



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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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