



Metropolitan Marine Maintenance  
Contractor's Association, Inc.

## **IMPORTANT UPDATE ABOUT QUARANTINE REQUIREMENTS**

December 18, 2020

**TO:** All ILA Locals, Members, and Employers in New York and New Jersey

**FROM:** New York Shipping Association, Inc.; Metropolitan Marine Maintenance Contractor's Association, Inc.; and the International Longshoremen's Association

**Re: New Protocols for Quarantining for Contacts with  
Individuals Who Have Tested Positive for COVID-19**

The Center for Disease Control (CDC) has recently issued new quarantine guidelines for those persons who have been in close contact with individuals who have tested positive for COVID-19. These new guidelines have subsequently been adopted by the Departments of Health of New York and New Jersey. The new quarantine period is ten days instead of fourteen days, and when the individual in question has had a negative test, the quarantine period may be as short as seven days. Management and the ILA have agreed to follow these new guidelines for the industry. The details are as follows.

***If an employee tests positive for COVID-19, the employer must still inform all coworkers who were in close contact with that employee.***

The procedure for someone who tests positive has **not** changed. An employee who tests positive for COVID-19 should immediately inform his or her employer. The employer must then ask the positive employee to identify every co-worker who was in close contact with the infected employee during the two days before that employee first felt sick or, if the infected employee is asymptomatic, during the two days before the positive employee was tested. Each employee who tests positive for COVID-19 must provide this information. “Close contact” means someone who was within 6 feet of an infected person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period starting from 2 days before illness onset (or, for asymptomatic patients, 2 days prior to test specimen collection) until the time the infected person is isolated.

Employees who have tested positive must still stay home for a minimum of ten days, even if the symptoms go away. These employees may go back to work only when at least 10 days have passed since symptom onset, and at least 24 hours have passed since resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications.

The employer must personally notify each co-worker who was in close contact to tell them to quarantine for **ten days, or seven days if the co-worker tests negative on the sixth or seventh day**. (This is a reduction from the previously required fourteen days.) The employer should also continue to notify the shop stewards of all exposed employees.

***Close contacts must now quarantine for ten days (or seven days with a negative COVID test) instead of fourteen days.***

Thus, the amount of time that a close contact must quarantine has been reduced. After being warned of a possible exposure to COVID-19, the employee must self-isolate at home for **ten days** from the last day that he or she had contact with the positive person. This is a reduction

from the fourteen days that were previously required. If the employee does not have any symptoms over the ten days, the employee may then return to work. **In the alternative**, the quarantine can end after as little as **seven days**, if the employee's diagnostic specimen tests negative, and the employee had no symptoms. **The testing specimen must have been collected and tested on the sixth day of quarantine or later.**

**Questions? Please call your Local or your Direct Employer, if you have any questions.**

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