



MARITIME EXCHANGE
for the Delaware River and Bay

ALERT

March 13, 2020

TO: Maritime Exchange Members
Maritime Operations Committee

The Exchange thanks Customs & Border Protection Executive Assistant Commissioners Todd Owen and Brenda Smith, their team members, and the Trade Support staff for hosting an industry outreach call this afternoon to talk specifically about coronavirus impacts on port operations. Following is a summary of some of the key discussion items.

- It is important to note that the Presidential Proclamation issued March 11 does not apply to “any alien traveling as a nonimmigrant pursuant to a C-1, D, or C-1/D nonimmigrant visa as a crewmember or any alien otherwise traveling to the United States as air or sea crew.”
- Crew arriving via air to join a ship must enter through one of the 13 designated airports. Such crewmembers may or may not undergo health screening upon arrival.
- If an arriving vessel crewmember appears to be ill, CBP and Coast Guard will follow protocols designed by local public health authorities. Decisions on whether CBP would detain the entire crew or take other measures in those instances will be case by case.
- CBP does not expect any additional cargo screenings as the medical community does not see cargo as a pathway for the transmission of the virus at this time.
- CBP personnel levels are not yet negatively affected by the virus. But as additional schools close throughout the country, CBP expects increases in the numbers of officers unable to report for duty. Where possible, CBP will allow employees to telework. In addition, some CBP officers have interacted with persons later found to be infected with COVID 19; those officers are in quarantine. If these numbers increase and staffing levels drop, CBP port directors will prioritize operations, just as they did when significant numbers of officers were deployed to the southern border.
- CBP is monitoring cargo volumes as well the movement of empty containers to the U.S. as needed to restage equipment. In February, express cargo volumes were the first to drop, then vessels, then mail. Air cargo has remained relatively constant.
- The federal government is working quickly to grant exclusions to Section 301 tariffs for approved medical goods (e.g., masks, surgical equipment).
- In response to a caller question, CBP will evaluate the possibility of extending the entry filing clock and/or the liquidated damages period if needed due to corporate shutdowns among importers and brokers.

- CBP may need to postpone at least some C-TPAT revalidations; if so the clock will shift with the postponements.
- As always, CBP will be as reasonable and as flexible as possible to waive normal local procedures (e.g., requiring offsigning crew fly direct to foreign) during this time.
- Anyone with questions or concerns is welcome to contact tradeevents@cbp.dhs.gov. (Note to Maritime Exchange members: please share any additional information you may receive from CBP directly so we can include it in future updates.)

CBP Philadelphia issued [Pipeline 009-2020](#) regarding CBP operations and preparedness as it pertains to COVID-19.

We hope this information is helpful. Feel free to contact [Darleen Michalak](#) or [Lisa Humber](#) with any additional questions you may have.

Maritime Exchange for the Delaware River and Bay
240 Cherry Street • Philadelphia, PA 19106-1906
215-925-2615
www.maritimedelriv.com

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