

REPORT OF THE OFFSHORE INDUSTRIES OFFSHORE FACILITIES AND OPERATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE ON COVID-19 IMPACTS

The Offshore Industries Committee, with support of the Offshore Vessels and Offshore Facilities and Operations Subcommittees, has prepared this brief report on the impact of COVID-19 to date on US offshore vessels, facilities, and operations. The intent of the report is not to be comprehensive, but rather to provide an overview of where the industry is in response to COVID-19 and to provide an easy reference of resources for MLA members and other interested parties.

The website for the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (“BSEE”) provides links to the CDC and other general government resources. See for example links to <https://www.coronavirus.gov/> and <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html> on the BSEE site, which is understandable as the aim has clearly been to present a uniform federal government response to the pandemic. To date, the BSEE Safety Alert Program has not issued an alert or bulletin regarding COVID-19. <https://www.bsee.gov/guidance-and-regulations/guidance/safety-alerts-program>.

The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management website has no information at this time regarding COVID-19 except for new office and administrative protocols. <https://www.boem.gov/office-leasing-and-plans>

For vessels supporting offshore industries, the CDC has issued guidance with recommendations specifically related to vessels: <https://www.cdc.gov/quarantine/maritime/recommendations-for-ships.html>. Additionally, the United States Coast Guard has issued several Marine Safety Information Bulletins related to COVID-19, including the following:

MSIB 02-20 (Change 5), Novel Coronavirus – Update (Change 5):

https://www.dco.uscg.mil/Portals/9/DCO%20Documents/5p/MSIB/2020/MSIB-02-20_Change%205_Novel-Coronavirus.pdf?ver=2020-05-28-102444-217

MSIB 06-20, Vessel Reporting Requirements for Illness or Death:

https://www.dco.uscg.mil/Portals/9/DCO%20Documents/5p/MSIB/2020/MSIB-06-20_Reporting-Requirements.pdf?ver=2020-03-13-092336-483

Per MSIB 02-20 and 06-20, all vessels must report the illness of crewmembers to the local Captain of the Port and the local CDC Quarantine Station. CDC Quarantine Station contact information can be found here: <https://www.cdc.gov/quarantine/quarantinestationcontactlistfull.html>.

For offshore workers in the Eighth Coast Guard District, illness among offshore workers may be reported to BSEE through the eWell Reporting System: <https://ewell.bsee.gov/ewell/>

Several industry groups have provided independent COVID-19 guidance and information, including the National Ocean Industries Association (“NOIA”), which provides the following helpful website posts <https://www.noia.org/covid19/> and <https://www.noia.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/COVID19-One-Pager.pdf>, and the Offshore Operators Committee, which has the following dedicate webpage <https://www.theooc.org/covid19>

Several major oil companies have also provided their own webpages to advise of their individual COVID-19 responses and plans. For example, BP <https://www.bp.com/en/global/corporate/news-and-insights/covid-19-bp-response.html>; Shell <https://www.shell.com/covid19.html>; and Exxon <https://corporate.exxonmobil.com/News/COVID-19-ExxonMobils-response>

Another helpful and practical resource is the ABS’s guidance for marine and offshore industries found in the following PDF https://ww2.eagle.org/content/dam/eagle/rules-and-guides/current/other/314_gnonresponsemeasurescovid19formarinaeoffshore/covid-19-gn-may2020.pdf