






## **UPDATE ON GPHA COVID-19 PREPAREDNESS AND PREVENTION ACTIVITIES**

We write to update you on measures put in place to mitigate the challenges posed by Covid-19 for our staff, stakeholders and the Port Community.


The unprecedented surge in the Corona Virus worldwide and the subsequent declaration of same as a pandemic by the World Health Organization (WHO), has unfortunately placed the industry in a crisis management situation. In this regard, GPHA proactively formed an Inter-Agency Emergency Preparedness and Response Committee comprising GPHA, Port health, Ghana Immigration Service, Meridian Port Services (MPS), Ghana Navy, National Security and Customs; to coordinate and direct activities in the port related to COVID-19, to ensure the preparedness and protection of the port community.

Over the past weeks, there have been frequent review of strategies in curbing the surge, given the recording of Ghanaian cases and the periodic directives issued by the President of the Republic on COVID-19; the most recent being that all our borders; land, sea and air, have been closed to human traffic for two weeks. This began on midnight of Sunday 22/03/2020.

Please be updated on the series of measures put in place by the Authority to decrease the spread of COVID-19 and lower the impact on our workplace, Port Community and general public.

-  COVID-19 awareness and sensitization has been provided for all staff of the various GPHA terminals and installations and for stakeholders of the Authority and the Port Community. These include, the Ghana Dock Labour Company (GDLC), Food Markets, Customs, Freight Forwarders, Marine and Railways Police, Immigrations, BNI, National Security etc.
-  Design and printing of COVID-19 prevention, precaution and awareness posters, pull-ups and portable booklets which were distributed to all staff and stakeholders at both Ports of Tema and Takoradi.
-  Frontline officers of the Port Community have been given special and intensive training by G.P.H.A Health Services and Port Health to effectively comply with all Standard Operating Procedures being followed at this period to combat the threats.
-  Temperature screening is done for all persons entering the various GPHA installations.
-  Hand sanitizers, hand wash poly tanks with soap have been place at vantage points within the various port installations.

- ✚ The (Eye on Port) television platform and GPIC is being used to educate staff and the general public on all steps and activities being undertaken at Ghana's Ports as far as combating the Coronavirus (COVID-19) is concerned.
- ✚ Educational interviews of GPHA Health Services Personnel are done on community radio stations in both English and local languages. These are also aired on national electronic and web based mass media platforms.
- ✚ G.P.H.A.'s International Maritime Hospital (IMaH) has hosted a Quasi-Government Health Services Conference to update the medical community on Best practices.
- ✚ Following the recorded cases of Coronavirus (COVID-19) in Ghana and the subsequent rise in the number of cases, G.P.H.A., in consultation with agents of cruise vessels has advised the postponement of all cruise ships scheduled to berth at the Ports of Tema and Takoradi until further notice. Though modalities are in place for cargo vessels to be worked.
- ✚ The Authority is also liaising with shipping agents to identify all high-risk vessels that may be calling Ghana's Ports for the necessary precautionary measures to be applied. Shipping lines have also been officially advised of the COVID-19 Standard Operating Procedures SOP's for port entry and the current prohibition against crew embarkation and disembarkation.
- ✚ The Authority has also taken the rare but critical decision and action of suspending all tourist activities in its Ports and related services to individuals and entities including educational institutions, corporate organizations etc.
- ✚ All visits to patients admitted to G.P.H.A.'s Health facilities in Tema and Takoradi have been strictly regulated and staff as well as the public has been urged to cooperate with the Health Services in this regard.
- ✚ As of 23/3/2020 National Service and Internship personnel have been advised to stay home for a month in order to decongest the buses and premises to enable staff maintain the advised social distances.
- ✚ Regulatory agencies have been advised to restrict their onboard activities to not more than two personnel.
- ✚ Stevedores have been notified to advise their staff and dockers to desist from accepting giveaways from crew members to mitigate possible contagion.
- ✚ Staff numbers in all areas have been reduced. Non-operational staff have proceeded on leave whilst essential and operational staff have been scheduled to alternate two week shifts working from home and office in order to implement the social distancing requirements.

 The port Authority has provided special permits for port operators and shipping agencies that are required to work during the lockdown. This enables them port entry and passage through the police and military barriers as they commute from home.

 The COVID-19 GPHA emergency helplines listed below:

<b>PORT OF TEMA</b>	<b>PORT OF TAKORADI</b>
+233 24 432 9093	+233 20 201 5144
+233 24 477 0776	+233 24 482 9961
Headquarters@ghanaports.gov.gh	gtidkabi@ghanaports.gov.gh
vanaab-bisi@ghanaports.gov.gh	itamoah@ghanaports.gov.gh
<a href="mailto:Kdompreh-ofori@ghanaports.gov.gh">Kdompreh-ofori@ghanaports.gov.gh</a>	<a href="mailto:pamo-bediako@ghanaports.gov.gh">pamo-bediako@ghanaports.gov.gh</a>

**MANAGER, MARKETING & CORPORATE AFFAIRS, HQ  
FOR: DIRECTOR-GENERAL, HQ**