CIPU
Cámara de Industrias Pesqueras del Uruguay

CORONAVIRUS - COVID-19

SEAFOOD FACILITY PREVENTION PROTOCOL

AUGUST OF 2020

In response to the Coronavirus pandemic, we have updated the prevention guide to guarantee the health and safety of the operators, employees, suppliers and customers of the merchandise that the company markets, while continuing to try to minimize the possibility of interrupting the business.

Actual state

If the number of cases positive for SARS-Cov2 increases significantly we can enter in another stage where the positive individuals for the PCR test will increase, the symptomatic or non symptomatic patients will raise and with a probable high mortality rate.

We must continue to stand by the preventive measures and controls imposed by the National Government through the Ministry of Public Health (MSP).

The main objective of the Health Protocol is the prevention and safeguarding the health of the Plant's operators, its administrators and personnel, reaching the people who provide the outsourced services that the company receives, including stable or occasional suppliers.

The survival of the company and the work it provides, as well as the usual provision of safe sea foods for the local and international market, is also a primary objective.

Training

It is vitally important to inform the employees and workers of the Plant about COVID-19 and how to prevent its spread, providing the latest news giving by the MSP. When informed, workers and employees will take that knowledge to home and share it with family and friends, helping to reduce the spread of the disease. For the training, a Preventive Technician accredited by the Ministry of Social Security and Labor (MTSS) is assigned with a fundamental role.

Important terms and concepts for training:

• Coronavirus: COVID-19 is an abbreviation of coronavirus-2019 disease. Coronaviruses are a large family of zoonotic viruses, which means they are transmitted between animals and people. Many different species of animals, including camels, cows, cats, pigs, birds, and bats, are known to carry this virus. Rarely, animal coronaviruses can infect people and then spread between people.

• Regarding the origin of COVID-19, there is still no scientific certainty as to the source of the outbreak. Genetically, COVID-19 is very similar to the bat coronavirus, which is why many believe that the virus originated from the bat population in Asia.
• Mode of transmission (how it spreads): Although person-to-person transmission is still the most important route, there are other transmission routes. A person is likely to become infected with COVID-19 by touching a surface or object that has the virus, and then touching their mouth, nose or eyes.
• Fomites: are the objects, materials or surfaces that can be contaminated with an infectious agent. Infected people can contaminate the fomites and then infect others when they touch the same object. This refers to all the surfaces that operators touch with their hands, such as plastic fish boxes, knives, transport carts for intermediate or final products, corrugated cardboard boxes, pallets, nylon bags, etc.
• Transmission from person to person: it is the main mode of transmission of the disease. Transmission occurs when an uninfected person is close (about less than 2 meters) to an infected person who coughs or sneezes. The contact time is very important also. Aerosol drops from a cough or sneeze can contain large amounts of the highly infectious virus. Shaking hands with an infected person may be another route of transmission. If a person who removes the virus shakes hands with someone, the virus will transfer to the second person's hand. If this person does not quickly wash and disinfect their hands, and if they touch their eyes, nose, or mouth, they can become infected.
• Fecal-oral transmission: Since the virus is eliminated in the fecal matter of infected and asymptomatic people, it is possible to transmit the virus by not washing your hands well after using the toilet. Contaminated hands can transmit the virus by direct contact with other people or by touching fomites such as doorknobs, handrails, and work utensils at the Plant.
• Symptoms and incubation period: COVID 19 has an average incubation period of about 6 days (range from 2 to 24 days) in infected people who develop the disease. Most infected patients are asymptomatic or suffer only mild symptoms. However, these people release large amounts of the virus during the early phase of infection, making it difficult to contain the epidemic.
• Survival of the virus. At 4º C some coronavirus strains survived up to 28 days. At 30–40 ° C, coronaviruses survived for a shorter period of time, and the persistence of the virus depends on the surface it reaches and on environmental conditions (such as ambient temperature and humidity), as well as how the virus is deposited on the surface and whether or not protective organic matter is present.
• Treatment: there are still no validated antiviral treatments in the main countries, so currently there is no specific antiviral treatment recommended for COVID-19, nor has a vaccine been developed yet. Currently, treatment consists of home or hospital confinement with supportive care, bed rest and plenty of fluids. There is emerging scientific evidence that various existing medications could be effective against the virus.
• Mortality rate: The global mortality rate is currently between 3 and 4%, which is many times higher than that of the common flu, which is less than 0.1%. The mortality rate in healthy young patients is much less than 3% and in the elderly and susceptible population over 65 years of age it is higher. Current data indicates that 80% of COVID-19 infections are mild or asymptomatic, 15% are serious infections requiring

oxygen and 5% are critical infections requiring ventilation in C.T.I. This information is very dynamic and can change from day to day.
*SARS-CoV-2 Tests. It´s a real-time fluorescent reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction test (PCR) for the qualitative detection of RNA nucleic acid from the coronavirus extracted by swabs from the upper and lower respiratory fluids (such as nasal, nasopharyngeal, sputum, etc.) from patients suspected of COVID-19 by their health care provider.

Preventive measures to apply in the Fishery Company
Human Resources (HR) Policies. The company implemented an early leave or sick leave policy for all employees who may be affected, according to the MSP and MTSS guidelines. In the corresponding cases, the Estate Social Security Body (BPS) Unemployment Insurance will be used.

Acute respiratory illness or flu-like symptoms: Plant employees or operators with flu-like symptoms should immediately notify their Managers and HR, stay home until symptoms resolve, and do so under medical supervision.

Since an infected person can begin to expel the virus before presenting symptoms, the decision to stay home should be at the beginning of the disease, when the symptoms have not yet become evident. Avoid contact with other people and consult your doctor, preferably remotely and not in person at the Hospital.

Exposed Employees: If an employee or worker is a contact of a case diagnosed with COVID-19 infection, they must notify their Manager and the Company's HR, beyond the mandatory notification to the MSP. They should stay home for a long incubation period (14 to 24 days) and under medical supervision. Only with a certified medical discharge can they return to work.

In suspected cases and with the support of the care provider the employees or workers should de tested on PCR technique or other technique validated by the M.S.P.

Since March of 2020 the Companies organized a Coronavirus Crisis Committee and built an app for the staff and in which the last news on the pandemic are joined.

Specific actions in the seafood production Facility.
• Visible signs that encourage staying home when people are sick, cough, or sneeze.
• The use of masks is mandatory in all areas of the Plant, both for own, outsourced, stable suppliers and occasional suppliers.
• The entrance to the Plant of any person who does not have the correctly placed mask is not admitted.
• Corporal temperature control at the Entrance step. In the person temperature is >37.5°C, he or she is not allowed to enter and is recommended back home and call the Doctor.
• Setting of visible COVID-19 Posters in the sanitary filters, changing rooms, administration, etc.

• Promote hand washing and disinfection at the entrance to the workplace and in other areas of the Plant, using the products that are made permanently available to employees and workers, stable or occasional suppliers.
• Disinfectants based on ethyl alcohol or isopropyl alcohol, quaternary ammonium compounds and peroxyacetic acid are known to be always effective and available from the stock of the Plant.
• Cleaning and disinfection procedures. Within the hygiene program of the Plant (Standardized daily hygiene procedures - SSOP), the Manager must follow the self-control guidelines of their own sanitary written Manuals and increase the disinfection measures with any of the compounds indicated above, increasing supply points at key locations in the Establishment.
• All frequently touched surfaces in the workplace are routinely cleaned, such as reception areas and cameras, process room, packing areas, door knobs, keypads on equipment panels, tables and chairs in the dining room, bathrooms, changing rooms. It can also be supplemented with sprays of proven disinfecting compounds, for example, alcohol-based ones.
• Provide disposable paper towels to allow employees to clean commonly used surfaces (e.g., door knobs, keypads, remote controls, desks, and sensitive points in the Plant), before each use. Alternatively, aerosol disinfectant is provided.
• These measures must be projected at the home of each worker or employee to avoid cross contamination.
• The recommendation to workers and personnel to install the application coronavirus.uy in their cellular phones, as a preventive measure and daily information.

Epidemic Phase. Planning for a possible explosive epidemic of COVID-19.

The potential scope of an acute epidemic of COVID-19 remains unknown at this time, and hopefully the disease will never reach explosive epidemic proportions in Uruguay due to the Estate health policy. However, the company must be able to respond flexibly to different severity levels that may arise and be prepared to redesign its business response plans as needed.

The daily recommendations of the MSP and of the Presidency of the Republic must be followed, taking them as the most trusted sources for decision-making.

If the COVID-19 outbreak reaches in great epidemic proportions, it means that previous efforts to limit the spread of the virus have not been effective enough.

In this case, the Plant will consider:
• Define the cessation or continuity of productive operations.
•Continue taking the body temperature at a distance from all the people who enter the Plant.
• Restrict the entry of people from services or outsourcing to the maximum possible, with the mandatory use of a mask permanently.
• Further reduce the number of people in confined workspaces and promoting telework in the sectors that are possible.
• Operate the Plant with the minimum number of personnel, respecting as far as possible the minimum distance of less than 2 meters between them.
• Ensure that staff members who have sick family members at home do not come to work until their homes have been disease free for at least 14 days and that they return with certified medical clearance.
• Intensify efforts to more frequently disinfect surfaces that could spread the virus (for example, door knobs, cameras or tunnels, handrails, changing rooms, bathrooms, etc., with special emphasis on sanitary filters in the Plant).
• Review hand washing and disinfection practices and glove use / disinfection.
• Ensure a wide dissemination of the measures communicated daily by the Ministry of Public Health to mitigate COVID-19.

International Safety statements about Sea foods and COVID-19

World Health Organization (WHO): “As food has not been implicated in the transmission of COVID-19. Testing of food or food surfaces for this virus is not recommended.”
US - FDA: “The likehood of an infected person contaminating commercial goods is low and the risk of catching the virus that causes COVID-19 from a package that has been moved, travelled, and exposed to different conditions and temperature is also low.”
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO): “Despite the hypothesis that the virus may have originated in bats and infected another animal used for food, there is no evidence of continued transmission of the virus from animals to humans through the food chain.”
The European Food Safety Authority’s (EFSA) states that “Experiences from previous outbreaks of related corona viruses, such as severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus (SARS-CoV) shows that transmission through food consumption did not occur. At the moment, there is no evidence to suggest that coronavirus is any different in this respect.”
US Center for Disease Control (CDC): “In general, because of poor survivability of these coronaviruses on surfaces, there is likely very low risk of spread from food products or packaging that are shipped over a period of days or weeks at ambient, refrigerated, or frozen temperatures.”

THE CORONAVIRUS IS NOT RELATED TO SEAFOOD´S