



Marine Safety Unit Pittsburgh Waterways Information February 2021



Ohio River

Wellsburg Bridge (75.5): Installation of drilled shafts has been completed. Construction process for the arch span is underway, along the upstream left descending bank. Floating into place of the bridge span is scheduled for April 2021.

Ninth Street Bridge (90.8): Rehabilitation and painting. Vertical clearance reduced by 4 inches until Oct. 2022.

Bellaire Bridge (94.3): Demolition date to be determined.

Tygart River

1-79 Twin Bridges Replacement (2.6): Pre-application stage.

Areas of Interest

1. MSIB: COVID-19 Safety Requirements in the Maritime Transportation System:

The Coast Guard Assistant Commandant for Prevention Policy has published [Marine Safety Information Bulletin 02-21 “COVID-19 Safety Requirements in the Maritime Transportation System”](#) to provide information related to the requirement of all persons traveling on all commercial vessels to wear a mask. The President issued Executive Order (13998), Promoting COVID-19 Safety in Domestic and International Travel that requires masks be worn on all “public maritime vessels, including ferries” to mitigate the risk of spreading COVID-19. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued order, [Requirement for Persons to Wear Masks while on Transportation Hubs, 29JAN2021](#), requires all persons traveling on all commercial vessels to wear a mask.

This Order requires conveyance operators to use best efforts to ensure that any person on the conveyance wears a mask when boarding, disembarking, and for the duration of travel. Depending on the circumstances, best efforts may include:

- boarding only those persons who wear masks;
- instructing persons that Federal law requires wearing a mask on the conveyance and failure to comply constitutes a violation of Federal law;
- monitoring persons onboard the conveyance for anyone who is not wearing a mask and seeking compliance from such persons;
- at the earliest opportunity, disembarking any person who refuses to comply;
- providing persons with prominent and adequate notice to facilitate awareness and compliance of the requirement of this Order to wear a mask; best practices may include, if feasible, advanced notifications on digital platforms, such as on apps, websites, or email; posted signage in multiple languages with illustrations; printing the requirement on transit tickets; or other methods as appropriate.



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The CDC has guidance on the definition of a mask and how to properly wear a mask at the following URL: <https://www.cdc.gov/quarantine/masks/mask-travel-guidance.htm>

Under Title 42 of the United States Code section 268, the Coast Guard is charged with enforcing CDC quarantine orders. Owners, operators, and crew of vessels that fail to implement the mask wearing order above may be subject to civil or criminal penalties from the CDC. Furthermore, based on the scientific determination of the CDC, the Coast Guard finds that failure to wear a mask creates an undue safety risk by increasing the risk of transmission of COVID-19 between passengers, the crew of the vessel, and port operators. COVID-19 is known to cause severe illness and death which impacts the safe operations of ships and port facilities. The Coast Guard has broad authority to control the movement and operations of a vessel based on a hazardous condition found on that vessel (see 33 CFR § 160.111). Vessels that have not implemented the mask requirement may be issued a Captain of the Port (COTP) order directing the vessel's movement and operations; repeated failure to impose the mask mandate could result in civil penalties and/or criminal action.

Persons that wish to report vessels not operating in accordance with the Executive Order or CDC Order may email the Coast Guard at wearamask@uscg.mil. This shared email inbox is not monitored on a continuous basis. If there is an emergency, it should not be reported to this email inbox, but rather to local authorities through proper emergency channels. Vessel owners and operators are encouraged to monitor the CDC website at <https://www.cdc.gov/> for the most up to date guidance. State, local, Tribal, and territorial laws or rules imposing public health measures that are more protective of public health than those required by the CDC, are an acceptable equivalency for these requirements. Vessel operators who believe local mask wearing requirements fit this exemption should contact the local COTP.

Questions concerning this notice may be forwarded to Coast Guard Office of Commercial Vessel Compliance, at wearamask@uscg.mil.

<https://mariners.coastguard.blog/2021/02/01/msib-covid-19-safety-requirements-in-the-maritime-transportation-system/>

2. CMTS COVID-19 Working Group: Survey of U.S. Mariner Mental Health Needs during COVID-19:

The [U.S. Committee on the Marine Transportation System](#) (CMTS) [COVID-19 Working Group](#) (C-19 WG) encourages mariners from all segments of the U.S. maritime industry to take ten minutes to anonymously complete the "Mariner Mental Health Needs during Covid-19" online survey at <https://redcap.link/mariners>. The confidential survey asks mariners a variety of questions about COVID-19, mental health, and their experiences and feelings when aboard a vessel during the challenges of this worldwide pandemic. No mariner identification data will be collected. Survey participation from a significant portion of the mariners in each industry segment is critical to understanding how the COVID-19 pandemic has affected their mental health. The survey is available from January 22 through May 31, 2021.

Results from the survey will be shared with federal agencies, vessel owners/operators, mariner unions, maritime training institutions, seafarer welfare organizations and MTS stakeholders to facilitate development of effective solutions that benefit our mariners' mental well-being. Mariner unions, vessel operators, vessel owners, mariner training institutions and industry associations are requested to



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encourage and facilitate the prompt participation of their mariners in this survey. MTS stakeholders are requested to widely distribute this announcement within the U.S. maritime industry.

The survey is being conducted independently by [Dr. Marissa Baker](#), Assistant Professor & Industrial Hygiene Program Director, University of Washington School of Public Health. Individual responses will be kept confidential at the School. The survey allows mariners to skip any question which they do not wish to answer. The C-19 WG has published the following resources for mariners and the U.S. Marine Transportation System:

- CMTS COVID-19 Working Group Nov 18, 2020 Webinar: COVID-19 Testing Strategies for U.S. Merchant Mariners – Slides
- Catalog of COVID-19 Federal Guidance and References for the U.S. Maritime Industry
- Catalog of COVID-19 Best Management Practices for the U.S. Maritime Industry
- Catalog of Mental Health Resources for U.S. Merchant Mariners and Critical Workforce in the Marine Transportation System

The [Ship Operations Cooperative Program](#) (SOCP) – whose members include vessel owners/operators, mariner unions, maritime academies, maritime training institutions, classification societies, other maritime industry stakeholders and government agencies – is also actively supporting this project to enhance the mental well-being of U.S. mariners.

Please email any questions, comments, or concerns regarding this mariner survey to Dr. Marissa Baker, University of Washington, at bakermg@uw.edu and Nuns Jain, Staff Lead, C-19 WG, at C19WG@cmts.gov.

<https://mariners.coastguard.blog/2021/01/29/cmts-covid-19-working-group-survey-of-u-s-mariner-mental-health-needs-during-covid-19/>