

# FONASBA COVID-19 BULLETIN



## AN UPDATE ON MEASURES BEING TAKEN TO PREVENT THE SPREAD OF COVID-19 BY MERCHANT SHIPPING – No. 54 05.08.2020

Further updates on COVID-19 precautions have been received from members as summarized below. As always, please contact the relevant association for more guidance.

<b>European Union (Schengen visas)</b>	<p>Further to the advice to ECASBA members on 21<sup>st</sup> July regarding the closure of some EU Member State Consulates in the Philippines, we have now received the undernoted summary of the current situation from the International Chamber of Shipping, to whom we offer our thanks. This advice is valid for the next two weeks but may of course change in the light of circumstances:</p> <p>Netherlands: Embassy: we will all work from home again as from 6 August. VFS will continue with visa for seafarers for us but lower quantity and via our regional office in KLL. No consular work at our front office (no regular passports, no consular certificates, no exams). Only emergencies but (in principle) from home. This measure until 18 August.</p> <p>Germany: Our consular and visa counters at the Embassy remain open for prescheduled appointments and consular walk in. We informed through our website. VFS trying to process as scheduled.</p> <p>Spain has suspended all consular procedures (nationals and visas) except for emergency assistance until put under GCQ again. BLS doesn't receive any kind of visa application. Only Spanish civil servants in the office. Locals work from home.</p> <p>Finland consular office is closed, no personnel in the Philippines. Embassy in Kuala Lumpur handles (or tries to handle) even emergencies remotely from KL.</p> <p>Romania: accepts long stay visas (D type), short stay visa (visit visa for family members only) seafarers (essential trips only).</p> <p>Hungary: all appointments moved after 18th, services at the Consular office only in emergency situation.</p> <p>Italy: still open for consular services and visa. The service provider managed to stay open with reduced capacity.</p> <p>Denmark: Closed for consular service next 2 weeks. They are preparing to handle 200 applications for seafarers in the coming days. Other visa applications will be received but will only be handled in very urgent matters.</p> <p>Belgium: working with skeleton workforce. Still open for consular services once a week by appointment and for emergencies. Will also accept a reduced number of visa applications through VFS (seafarers, students &amp; family reunion).</p>
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	Sweden: Will continue, with skeleton workforce, to have the Embassy open for visitors, but only accept pre-booked appointments. For visas they refer to VFS.
<b>USA</b>	<p>The US Center for Disease Control (CDC) has issued updated guidance on managing suspected or confirmed cases of COVID on board vessels calling in US ports.</p> <p>The updated guidance covers the development of ship specific management plans for the mitigation of COVID, preventive measures for ship operators and crew, management of non-cruise ships with one or more confirmed cases, disembarkation of crew, reporting of cases, supplies, port personnel/crew interface and cleaning/disinfection. This document may be downloaded in PDF format at the link below.</p> <p><a href="https://www.cdc.gov/quarantine/maritime/recommendations-for-ships.html">https://www.cdc.gov/quarantine/maritime/recommendations-for-ships.html</a></p>