

Port of Duluth-Superior COVID protocol summary for maritime vessels

The United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Minneapolis–St. Paul Quarantine Station) is the lead federal public health responder for triggered responses onboard international vessels in the Port of Duluth-Superior. The Douglas County (Wisconsin) and St. Louis County (Minnesota) Departments of Health and Human Services are the lead agencies responding to potential COVID situations onboard U.S.-flagged vessels.

Federal regulations require the master of a ship destined for a U.S. port to immediately report to CDC any death or certain illnesses, including coronavirus, among ship passengers or crew. For ships destined to arrive at the Port of Duluth-Superior, ship masters would contact the CDC Minneapolis-St. Paul Quarantine Station (telephone: 621-725-3005, or after hours, 770-488-7100). In addition, illness of a person onboard a vessel that may adversely affect safety of the port, a vessel, or port personnel is officially deemed a hazardous condition and the owner, agent, master, operator, or person in charge must immediately notify the U.S. Coast Guard. For vessels sailing to or transiting the Port of Duluth-Superior, those notifications should be directed to the U.S. Coast Guard 24-Hour Command Center in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, via telephone at 906-635-3233.

If the U.S. Coast Guard receives notification of an ill crew member, the Coast Guard will follow its plan to notify the appropriate federal and/or county health agency and assist within the scope of Coast Guard authority. The responding agency will then execute its response plan in concert with the specific response plans established in 2020 through the diligent work and collaboration of various Great Lakes maritime partners and shipping companies.