



## **U.S. Committee on the Marine Transportation System**

1200 New Jersey AVE, SE

Washington, DC 20590

202-366-3612

[www.cmts.gov](http://www.cmts.gov)

October 26, 2020

Contact: [Nuns.Jain@dot.gov](mailto:Nuns.Jain@dot.gov)

### **CMTS Covid -19 Working Group Publishes 3 Reference Catalogs**

The U.S. Committee on the Marine Transportation System (CMTS) COVID-19 Working Group (C-19 WG) has published the following three reference catalogs to assist U.S. merchant mariners and the MTS:

1. Catalog of COVID-19 Federal Guidance and References for the U.S. Maritime Industry – compilation of guidance and resources related to COVID-19 by Federal agency or initiative.
2. Catalog of COVID-19 Best Management Practices for the U.S. Maritime Industry -a compilation of publicly available, industry best management practices and resources related to a variety of issues, including sanitation, health, and safety practices to protect the maritime industry - including merchant mariners - from the impacts of COVID-19.
3. Catalog of Mental Health Resources for U.S. Merchant Mariners and Critical Workforce in the Marine Transportation System - currently available federal and non-federal mental health resources, the intent of which is to give U.S. merchant mariners and MTS workers additional support structure during and after the pandemic.

Readers are requested to advise the C-19 WG of any errors or omissions in these catalogs by forwarding the information (with citations) and identification of any perceived gaps in the existing federal guidance, industry best management practices or mental health resources, along with any recommended solutions, to [C19WG@cmts.gov](mailto:C19WG@cmts.gov).

CMTS Coordinating Board Chair RDML Richard Timme, Assistant Commandant for Prevention Policy, U.S. Coast Guard and RDML Mark Buzby, Administrator, Maritime Administration, led the formation of the C-19 WG to provide a forum for enhanced interagency collaboration and joint initiatives to support the MTS under and after the pandemic. Twenty federal agencies participate in the Working Group. These three catalogs were developed as part of an aggressive work plan that includes a public webinar with the Center for Disease Control (CDC) to be held on November 18, 2020, 2 – 3:30 p.m. (EST), to present mariner COVID-19 testing procedures. Go to [www.CMTS.gov](http://www.CMTS.gov) for more information.

The CMTS COVID-19 Working Group work plan includes tasks to support the facilitation of interagency communications and stakeholder engagement; the review of federal policies, regulatory practices, and guidance impacting safe, effective, and efficient operation of the MTS under and after the COVID-19 pandemic; providing feedback on MTS industry-developed COVID-19 best practices and resources; sharing and improving resources for addressing U.S. merchant mariner mental health and safety; and assessing MTS performance under the COVID-19 pandemic, and developing lessons learned. Refer to [www.CMTS.gov](http://www.CMTS.gov) for updates.

- END -