

Important Reminders Regarding Drug & Alcohol Testing

Numerous aspects of day-to-day operations have changed for many of us due to the current pandemic.

The U.S. Coast Guard (“USCG”) recently issued Marine Safety Information Bulletin 10-20 regarding federal drug testing and the following compliance requirements that will remain in effect during the COVID-19 national emergency:

- **Random Testing:** Operators shall continue to conduct random urinalysis tests reasonably spread throughout 2020 and are encouraged to adjust random selection dates and use their own office employees or mariners to administer the drug tests during the pandemic. Virtual training options are available on-line to certify urine collectors. The Office of Investigations and Analysis (CG-INV) will give due consideration to the current challenges when deciding whether or not to initiate an enforcement action against marine employers who fall short of the 50% requirement. If a marine employer does fall short, they should provide an explanation along with their 2020 MIS reports describing the complications encountered and the steps taken to maintain their random testing programs.
- **Pre-Employment Testing:** Employers must continue to require pre-employment drug tests for newly hired crewmembers. However, in consideration of the pandemic and the potential need for employers to backfill crewmember positions rapidly, the USCG will consider employer requests to waive pre-employment drug tests for employees that have been covered by a random drug test program for at least 60 days within the last year of the intended hiring date. Employers may email waiver requests to CG-INV at HQS-DG-Ist- CG-INV-1@uscg.mil.
- **Post-Serious Marine Incident and Reasonable Cause Testing:** No change.

Quest Diagnostics has rigorous safety procedures in place to protect against potentially infectious diseases. COVID-19 specimens are not collected at Quest Diagnostics Patient Service Centers (PSC). Specimens are only collected at a physician office or hospital and then sent to a Quest laboratory for processing. Individuals can continue to visit a Quest Diagnostics PSC for a drug test or other testing services not related to COVID-19, and the first hour of every day is reserved for those who are 60 years of age or older or have other conditions that put them at greater risk. The PSC network will proceed with workplace drug test collections as usual while diligently following all CDC best practices.

During this time, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”), recommends that everyone should:

Clean your hands often

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds especially after you have been in a public place, or after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
- If soap and water are not readily available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. Cover all surfaces of your hands and rub them together until they feel dry.

- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.

Avoid close contact

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home as much as possible.
- Put distance between yourself and other people.
 - Remember that some people without symptoms may be able to spread the virus.
 - Keeping distance from others is especially important for people who are at higher risk of getting very sick.

Cover your mouth and nose with a cloth face cover when around others

- You could spread COVID-19 to others even if you do not feel sick.
- Everyone should wear a cloth face cover when they have to go out in public, for example to the grocery store or to pick up other necessities.
 - Cloth face coverings should not be placed on young children under age 2, anyone who has trouble breathing, or is unconscious, incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance.
- The cloth face cover is meant to protect other people in case you are infected.
- Do NOT use a facemask meant for a healthcare worker.
- Continue to keep about 6 feet between yourself and others. The cloth face cover is not a substitute for social distancing.

Cover coughs and sneezes

- If you are in a private setting and do not have on your cloth face covering, remember to always cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze or use the inside of your elbow.
- Throw used tissues in the trash.
- Immediately wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not readily available, clean your hands with a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.

Clean and disinfect

- Clean AND disinfect frequently touched surfaces daily. This includes tables, doorknobs, light switches, countertops, handles, desks, phones, keyboards, toilets, faucets, and sinks.
- If surfaces are dirty, clean them: Use detergent or soap and water prior to disinfection.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/prevention.html>