

# Medical care during the COVID-19 epidemic

An information for the Offshore Wind Industry from the WINDEAcare® organization  
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## 1 General Implication of the COVID-19- (SARS-CoV-2) epidemic

The corona virus or COVID-19 epidemic is a current topic with great influence on all processes of public health and national economy. The risk of infection for individuals in the offshore wind industry is rather low. However, there is still a chance of infection and a continuous reassessment of the risk is necessary. Scenarios and situations are therefore conceivable in which COVID-19 infections - like other infectious diseases - could become relevant and have a significant impact on the health of employees and continuous operation of the offshore wind industry.

*Northern HeliCopter GmbH* specializes in air rescue for the offshore wind industry and has a comprehensive hygiene management system. *Northern HeliCopter* is therefore also regularly reviewing the methods of transporting infected patients.

The holistic medical care concept WINDEAcare with its partners has set itself the task of securing medical care for the offshore wind industry at the highest level and to react appropriately to all challenges in order to guarantee medical care for employees.

In the following we comment on and provide information on individual questions in connection with the epidemic:

## 2 Use of rescue helicopters for patients with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 cases

The rescue helicopters of the *Northern HeliCopter GmbH* are equipped according to the requirements of DIN 13718. They are equipped with a disinfectable patient room. The *Northern HeliCopter GmbH* has a hygiene concept and protective equipment, which can be adapted to all common pathogens and therefore can safely transport infected persons under certain framework conditions.



Although helicopter is not generally the first choice for transporting infected persons, *Northern HeliCopter* can generally confirm that the transport of emergency patients with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 infection is possible in our helicopters.

## 3 Airborne transport of patients with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 infection

In the current situation, scenarios are conceivable in which a larger number of suspected or infected patients have to be evacuated from platforms or ships in the offshore wind industry.

The equipment of the transport helicopters of the *Northern HeliCopter GmbH* and the developed and applied hygiene concepts enable the use of these helicopters for the transport of patients suspected or confirmed COVID-19-infection - with or without medical supervision.



The performance of such transports may upon request and medical assessment be carried out in a concept agreed with the client.

## 4 Support with possible quarantine measures for converter and manned platforms or vessels of the Offshore Wind Industry

A realistic, though not necessarily expected scenario is a situation in which for example a platform or a vessel due to a suspected case of COVID-19 infection is for a longer period quarantined. In such a situation, the WINDEAcare partners, the *Johanniter-Unfall-Hilfe e.V.* and *Northern HeliCopter GmbH*, offer the following:

- Deploy additional medical personnel (paramedics and emergency doctors) to offshore location to provide continual medical treatment, care, or advice and support preventive measures.
- Invoke state-certified disinfectors and transport them offshore to manage, coordinate and support hygiene measures on site.
- Provide additional material such as required disinfectants and protective clothing or laboratory equipment by air-bound transport and prompt delivery of laboratory samples to an onshore laboratory.
- With the resources of the *Emergency Control Centre Offshore Wind Farms* and the back-up services of its Special Operations Staff (German: *Stab für Außergewöhnliche Einsätze - SAE*), which is responsible for operational efforts in support the continual operation even under quarantine

## 5 Requirements and operational management

All medical services from the WINDEAcare network can be obtained from the

### **EMERGENCY CONTROL CENTRE OFFSHORE WIND FARMS**

the *Gesellschaft für maritimes Notfallmanagement mbH*, operated in cooperation with the *Johanniter-Unfall-Hilfe e.V.*:

E-Mail: [operator.ventusmedic@johanniter.de](mailto:operator.ventusmedic@johanniter.de)

Phone: +49 421 800 580 10

**Emergency: +49 421 675 909**

The situation is assessed and suitable measures are agreed upon together with the responsible departments of the client, with the involvement of all relevant specialist services of WINDEAcare partners. The operational management of even larger locations including communication with the supervisory health authorities and the management of patient flows can thus be ensured in the best possible way.

