

# Medical care during the COVID-19 epidemic

2. information for the offshore wind industry from the WINDEAcare® organization  
20 March 2020

## 1 Maintaining medical care

The current pandemic is a global crisis whose effects on all areas of life cannot yet be foreseen. The maintenance of health care is one of the fundamental tasks of all relevant institutions and organizations.

The offshore wind industry is part of the critical infrastructure (KRITIS) of Germany. The joint maintenance of the best possible medical care for all employees in this field of activity is the task of the partners in the WINDEAcare partnership.

The situation is highly dynamic overall. We therefore regularly inform you about our assessment of the situation and the relevant state of affairs regarding our services.

## 2 Ensuring the air rescue

Northern HeliCopter GmbH as an air rescue company has taken extensive organizational, personnel and preventive measures. These are used to maintain service operations and the necessary back-up services such as technology, logistics and administration.

Another significant factor is the high proportion of full-time personnel, who are provided exclusively for the original mission. The same applies to the direct service providers, such as Johanniter-Unfall-Hilfe e.V. The direct connection to the shareholder DRF Luftrettung provides additional resources of an administrative, organizational or material nature. A joint task force evaluates the situation on a daily basis and takes the necessary measures or adapts the corresponding processes, depending on the appropriateness and situation.

At present, we can thus ensure that air rescue for the offshore wind industry is warranted in the German Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of the North Sea and Baltic Sea. For this purpose, we are operating:

- 1 offshore rescue helicopter for the care and transport of emergency patients even under suspicion of infection at the St. Peter-Ording site
- 1 offshore rescue helicopter for the care and transport of emergency patients also under suspicion of infection at the location Insel Rügen

- 1 additional transport helicopter installed exclusively at Emden site for the admission of non-emergency patients with suspected infection under medical supervision or the urgent transport of personnel or material to maintain the working capacity of the infrastructure. This means of transport can also be used as a support for coping with larger situations such as the mass casualty of injured and (!) sick persons (MCI/E) or can also be used, for example, to transport corona test kits for testing offshore.

NHC's current provision of personnel and materials enables a calculated maintenance of these services even if a larger proportion of the staff is temporarily absent.

Thus, we are currently able to ensure air rescue services, including the care of a larger number of sick persons suspected of COVID-19, for the offshore wind industry.

Offshore employees are immediately rescued and medically treated in the event of an accident or emergency.

The entire service portfolio from the first information of 03 March 2020 ([LINK](#)) will be maintained.

At the request of the *Gewerbeaufsichtsamt Oldenburg*, the companies Northern HeliCopter GmbH and WIKING Helikopter Service GmbH are cooperating for the duration of the exceptional situation of the Corona pandemic. The joint cooperation has made it possible to generate a further possible fallback level for the air transport of patients under one guidance.

### 3 Ensuring control centre operation and operational command

The Bremen Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (MRCC)/ Emergency Control Centre Offshore Wind is well prepared to cover all existing risks. A number of technical, organizational and personnel measures were taken to permanently and long-term ensure our core task - emergency management at sea:

- Conditions were created to enable the control centre to work in a decentralised manner, despite the guarantee of at least two navigators and a paramedic in 24/7 operation
- Possibilities have been created to enable employees in domestic quarantine to work and to keep operations running
- Increase of the staff pool of the control center by 20%, with simultaneous reducing the presence time of the personnel
- Isolation of the MRCC/ Emergency Control Centre Offshore Wind from the rest of the building
- Agreements regarding the assumption of the maintenance of emergency radio frequencies by the DGzRS district control centres and SAR vessels

The Bremen Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (MRCC)/ Emergency Control Centre Offshore Wind is more than confident that even in these difficult times the rescue service at sea and the coordination of maritime emergencies in offshore wind farms can be ensured, albeit with certain restrictions.

## 4 Emergency paramedics in projects on vessels and platforms

The emergency paramedics of Johanniter-Unfall-Hilfe e.V. (JUH) are currently working in 12 projects for the offshore wind industry on vessels and platforms. In addition to their regular duties of providing basic health care and high-quality emergency medical care, they play a significant role in maintaining the necessary operations in the current crisis. Especially in the area of:

- Hygiene Management
- Disinfection
- Health surveillance
- Compliance with preventive measures
- Advice and information for employees and HSE staff
- Performing tests/swabs for COVID-19 infection

these professionals perform additional tasks to help contain infection rates.

Through additional material and organizational efforts, we are currently fully able to maintain these services at their core.

In addition, the JUH advises numerous customers in the onshore sector and develops corresponding concepts. Hygiene training and risk assessments in German and English for **online use** are also available.

## 5 Telemedicine

When it comes to infectious diseases, telemedicine is more suitable than any other medical service for transferring medical expertise. A uniform, highly qualified medical assessment and delegation in patient care are of existential importance, especially in times of scarce resources. The two leading telemedicine centers for the offshore wind industry:

- Unfallkrankenhaus Berlin gGmbH (UKB)
- Hospital Oldenburg AÖR (KOL)

have jointly agreed in the current situation on a unified, coordinated approach to all issues relating to the COVID-19 pandemic that strictly complies with the current recommendations of the Robert Koch Institute and the requirements of the supervisory authorities responsible for health.

In the current situation - also due to the close cooperation between the two telemedicine centres - this service can be represented as follows:

- Telemedical consultation of the staff on site in case of suspicious cases, as well as support of the emergency paramedics on site in case of longer lasting treatment or quarantine phase.
- Individual consultation by the Institute for Hospital Hygiene (*Institut für Krankenhaushygiene*) at the KOL or the Institute for Laboratory Medicine (*Institut für Laboratoriumsmedizin*) at the UKB offer professional assessments of the risk situation in communication with other institutions or government agencies.

## 6 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.*:

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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 the 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.

