

Medical care during the COVID-19 pandemic

6. information for the offshore wind industry from the WINDEAcare® network
17 June 2020

1 Update on the transmission paths of SARS-CoV-2 Virus

With regard to the assessment of the transmission routes and the hygiene measures derived from them, there are new scientific results, which we would like to summarize here very briefly:

- **Contact transmissions:** Transmission of virus-containing material via contaminated surfaces is possible in principle, but it plays a minor role in practice - at least for the SARS-CoV-2 virus. Thus, the effect of extended prophylactic surface disinfection must also be questioned. Basically, regular disinfectant cleaning of frequent contact surfaces such as door clinics, staircases etc. is certainly sensible at typical workplaces in the offshore wind industry, but it is more likely to prevent the spread of diseases with a typical infection path via contact/smear infection (e.g. diarrhoea). Application-related large-area contact disinfection is still useful in the preparation of work/sleeping/meeting places that have been contaminated by COVID-19 patients.
- **Droplet infection:** This is still considered the main transmission paths. Here droplets, as they are produced when coughing or sneezing, are excreted and absorbed by the person opposite through the mucous membranes of the nose, mouth and possibly also the eye. Therefore, the rules of hygiene, a minimum distance of 1.5m to 2.0m, as well as a consistent coughing and sneezing etiquette are still mandatory. A mouth-nose protection has a clearly positive effect on this transmission path.
- **Aerosols:** Suspended particles containing viruses in the air we breathe are increasingly becoming the focus of transmission. It is known that SARS-CoV-2 viruses survive longer in aerosols (i.e. droplet nuclei smaller than 5 micrometres). Especially in closed, poorly ventilated rooms, these virus-containing aerosols can persist longer. The duration of exposure to air containing the virus seems to have a direct influence on the infection rate. This changes the risk assessment. If two or more persons - even at a greater distance - are working in places with "stagnant air", there is obviously a higher risk of transmission than in places with much moving air or outdoors. Regular testing of any existing ventilation and air-conditioning systems that may be present and the possible effects on their effectiveness in terms of their functioning can have a positive influence on aerosol resistance. Simple surgical masks are suitable - at least in laboratory tests - to reduce aerosol formation significantly.

In summary, the "Corona Bundle" protects with

- Distance requirement of at least 1.5m to 2.0m
- "Simple" hygiene rules such as cough and sneeze etiquette and regular hand washing
- Good ventilation of workplaces, even with modern air conditioning systems
- Consistent use of mouth-nose protection

according to the current state of knowledge well before an uncontrolled spread of the virus and should not be neglected.

2 The „language end“ of the offshore emergency dispatch & control centre VENTUSmedic

The medical dispatch centre VENTUSmedic has already been integrated into the emergency control centre for offshore wind farms in the MRCC by the end of 2017. Here, the emergency paramedics of Johanniter-Unfall-Hilfe e.V. work side by side with the nautical officers of the SAR service (Search and Rescue) in all operations. The name "VENTUSmedic" is no longer formally used. Now the last element - the e-mail addresses with the ending "@ventusmedic.org" had been changed. The emergency dispatch and control centre is now accessible via rescue.offshore@johanniter.de. Please change this in your contact details. (However, the old e-mail address will be forwarded first and will not yet be switched off).

3 Pocket card for the Hi-Line Procedure for your staff

The winching down and up of medical personnel as well as patients lying in the helicopter rescue bag from the transition piece (TP) of a wind turbine using the HI-Line-Procedure (Hi-Line99 is a procedure that not only requires a high level of training from the crew of the offshore rescue helicopters. It also requires the support of your staff, who are instructed in the correct use of the rope. This considerably increases the safety of the procedure.

A pocket card can help to provide assistance, which we will gladly send to you. The card is in DIN A 6, laminated and available in English. Please contact us and we will send you the desired quantity by post.

If you would like to have a training for your staff, please also contact us. We will then get in touch with you.



4 Daily routine in training operations

The pandemic containment measures also have an impact on our training operations. Nevertheless, there is no alternative in our risk assessment that certain skills and procedures must be practiced in order to function in the event of an emergency. For example, training in water rescue, HHO procedures on the WTG, also with Hi-Line Procedure, and rescue from height started again in these weeks together with our partners (if necessary, with additional hygiene measures).



The practical testing of the further development of a rescue stretcher together with a well-known company for safety technology was also continued. This offers further advantages both in the use as a helicopter rescue bag with the possibility of complete patient immobilization and in technical rescue.

5 Download of informationen

This letter as well as the previous information especially on the topic "Medicine and Corona Pandemic" can be viewed at any time in our download area of the WINDEAcare homepage. Further interesting information, such as the legal tips on organisational law from lawyer Bernd Albrecht, can also be found there.

<https://www.windea-care.de/de/downloads>

6 Mission control

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: rescue.offshore@johanniter.de

Phone: +49 421 800 580 10

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