



## **Coronavirus (COVID-19) Guidance for R/V *ANGARI* Vessel Operations** (January 10, 2023)

ANGARI Foundation is committed to supporting marine science research by providing R/V *ANGARI* at minimal costs while protecting the health of all scientists and crew aboard. In response to COVID-19, omicron and its subvariants and due to the regular and often remote operations of the vessel, the following protocols are in place until further notice.

### **1. Embarkation/Disembarkation**

As part of the passenger information packet, all personnel, whether or not they have been vaccinated for COVID-19, are required to complete and sign a COVID-19 screening form. If a passenger cannot provide proof of being fully vaccinated or as required by government regulations, the passenger must present a negative COVID-19 RT-PCR test result. In some cases, entry to certain geographic regions may require a health visa. When this is the case, each passenger must be able to present an approved health visa upon boarding.

During travel to the vessel, risks should be managed and mitigated, including wearing a face covering/mask, practicing social distancing, and cleaning and disinfecting. Anyone exhibiting any COVID-19 symptoms, including but not limited to fever, dry cough and/or respiratory issues, should not travel and will not be allowed to board the vessel.

Because a ship is a closed environment, after being at sea for 7 days or more, and if no persons show signs of illness, the vessel may be considered as free from COVID-19 and therefore safe.

### **2. Protective and Hygiene Measures Onboard**

The vessel will undergo cleaning and disinfection measures before and after every expedition. Additionally, crew will maintain cleaning practices and routinely disinfect high use areas during expeditions. All vessel crew are fully vaccinated.

Human-to-human transmission of COVID-19 is understood to occur primarily through droplet spread. A person with COVID-19 coughs or sneezes, spreading droplets into the air and onto objects and surfaces in close proximity. Other people breathe in the droplets or touch the objects or surfaces and then touch their eyes, nose or mouth. Any person(s) who develops flu-like symptoms including fever, cough or difficulty breathing must report these symptoms to the Captain immediately and be tested for COVID-19.



All persons should take the following precautions to maintain good hygiene while onboard:

- Frequently wash hands using soap and hot water for 20 seconds or alcohol-based hand sanitizer until completely dry
- Avoid touching the face, including mouth, nose and eyes, with unwashed hands
- Cover the nose and mouth with a disposable tissue when sneezing, coughing, wiping or blowing the nose, and dispose of the used tissue immediately into a waste bin, followed by handwashing
- If a tissue is not available, cover the nose and mouth and cough or sneeze into a flexed elbow
- Aim to keep at least 1 meter (3 feet) distance from other people when possible
- Disinfect his/her own work areas, equipment and tools as appropriate after use
- Wash hands both before and after using the toilet, and place the toilet lid down before flushing
- Handle food carefully to avoid cross-contamination, consistent with good food safety practices
- Frequently sanitize touchpoints
- Wear a face covering when in enclosed, crowded areas

### **3. Suspected Cases Onboard**

All persons onboard are expected to monitor his/her/their own health throughout the expedition. Any person(s) displaying any of the following symptoms should be considered as a suspected case of COVID-19: fever, dry cough, tiredness, shortness of breath, aches and pains, sore throat, nausea, loss or change in taste/smell, runny nose, rash, diarrhea. The vessel is outfitted with testing kits in the case there is suspicion of infection.

A suspected patient will be immediately isolated in his/her cabin and provided with a face mask to wear at all times until at which time a negative test can be obtained. Contact with the patient will be limited to 1 person who will wear proper PPE and a face mask. Patient will be regularly monitored and brought meals and medicine as needed until the patient can visit a medical facility and/or relocate to shore-based accommodations, as necessary.

Once the patient has disembarked, the vessel will undergo a high level of cleaning and disinfection measures. All passengers and crew will be tested for COVID-19, and any personnel with a positive test result will not be permitted to remain onboard the vessel.