

June 5, 2020

**Re: Transport Canada Temporary Guidance on Use of Non-Medical Masks**

BCMEA continues its commitment to remain vigilant and prioritize the health and safety of our waterfront workforce, while simultaneously ensuring that cargo continues to flow at BC's ports.

On June 3, 2020, Transport Canada issued a bulletin providing temporary guidance related to the use of non-medical masks or face coverings for workers in the marine transportation sector during the COVID-19 pandemic period.

According to Transport Canada, consideration should be given to the use of non-medical masks or face coverings to “support situations where protection is not already prescribed as a component of required PPE, and maintaining a physical distance of two (2) metres between co-workers or customers/clients in the workplace is not consistently possible, consideration should be given to the use of a nonmedical mask or face covering.” Further guidance is available [here](#).

BCMEA has distributed a total of 5100 cloth masks (1700 packets of 3) to date to help protect waterfront workers while on the job. Currently, BCMEA is receiving and distributing approximately 800 packs per week for waterfront men and women.

For more information on COVID-19 health and safety protocols, please visit the BCMEA COVID-19 Information Centre: <http://www.bcmea.com/resources/covid-19-information/>.

Should you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to John Beckett, Vice President, Operations at [jbeckett@bcmea.com](mailto:jbeckett@bcmea.com).