

April 1, 2003

MR'S ADVISORY TO SHIPPING No. A-07-2003

TO : ALL STEAMSHIP AGENTS, OWNERS, AND OPERATORS

SUBJECT: ATYPICAL PNEUMONIA

The Panama Canal Authority is concerned with the recent outbreak of atypical pneumonia that has generated a World Health Organization's Advisory in the last few days.

The symptoms associated with this disease are:

- Fever higher than 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit (38 degrees C);
- One or several respiratory symptoms including cough and respiratory distress;
- History of having been in close contact with a person diagnosed with the disease or with the body fluids of such person;
- Recent history of visit to the countries listed below or having been close to a person coming from those countries.

Transmission of the disease has been identified in Hong Kong, Singapore, Indonesia, Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam, Continental China and Canada.

It is imperative that vessels arriving at the Panama Canal after having visited any of these countries within 30 days prior to their arrival, and having identified any suspected case on board demonstrating the symptoms listed above, report this condition prior to their arrival in order that appropriate measures be taken to prevent the possible spread of this disease. Such measures include, but are not limited to, sanitary health authorities boarding the vessel in order to investigate the cases, and the use of personal protective equipment (masks and gloves) by our personnel.

ORIGINAL SIGNED

Jorge L. Quijano
Maritime Operations Director

