

# ALON

## Ocean Wave

2019  
29<sup>th</sup> November

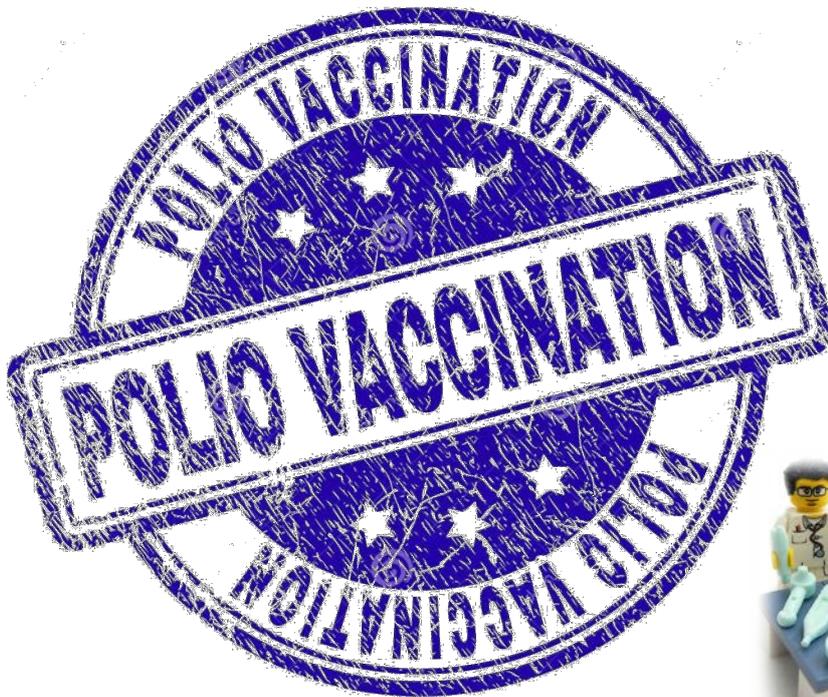
**PANDIMAN PHILIPPINES Inc.**  
P&I Correspondent in the Philippines

Topics of interest relating to the Philippine Maritime Industry and Shipping

### **POLIO ALERT**

**URGENT UPDATE Supersedes ALON 22<sup>nd</sup> November**

Requirements for vaccination and certification for Filipino Seafarers



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## **Polio Alert Philippines and Indonesia Advisories**

We have had a significant number of enquires in regards to Filipino crew who will be on board vessels visiting ports in Indonesia. Most Filipino's have the Polio vaccine when they are infants and therefore no certificate, in order to comply with latest requirements those onboard will require re-vaccination. Below are the latest guidelines and advice;

### **DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH PHILIPPINES (DOH ADVISORY)**

#### **ADVISORY: POLIO VACCINATION FOR TRAVELERS COMING TO THE PHILIPPINES**

10 October 2019

On 19 September 2019, the Philippine Government thru the Department of Health, declared a Polio Epidemic, as two (2) cases of Poliomyelitis were confirmed (VDPV2). In addition to this finding, environmental samples taken from the sewage of Manila yielded positive result for VDPV Type 1 for two (2) consecutive months after an initial positive sample for VDPV Type1.

The World Health Organization stated that the risk of international spread of Polio is low, however, the risk of transmission and recirculation of the Polio virus within the Philippines is high due to low population immunity.

The Philippine Department of Health, as the lead agency mandated to ensure health of all its citizens, and visitors, hereby recommends the following measures, to provide protection and assurance to all concerned.

#### **For all travelers entering the Philippines:**



Foreign nationals and returning Filipinos of all ages who are intending to stay in the Philippines for four (4) weeks and more are encouraged to receive a single dose of inactivated poliovirus vaccine (IPV) not later than four (4) weeks before their scheduled travel to the Philippines. Given that the traveler has not received polio vaccination in the last 12 months.



Travelers undertaking urgent travel within four (4) weeks, are recommended to receive a single dose of IPV at least by the time of departure as this will still provide benefits, particularly for frequent travelers.

#### **For all travelers leaving the Philippines:**



They are encouraged to check the immunization requirements of the country they are going to, and if required, receive a dose of Inactivated Polio Vaccine (IPV) before departure and get their International Certificate of Vaccination from the Bureau of Quarantine (BOQ) to serve as proof of their vaccination.



In discussion with colleagues in Indonesia;

**Ministry of Health the Republic Indonesia Number 5R.O3.04 / 11/2320/2019 concerning Alertness and Response to Extraordinary Events Type 2 VDPV Polio,**

People that going and/or coming from Philippine to Indonesia, they are required to be vaccinated against Polio (IPV- Inactivated poliovirus Vaccine), to prevent dissemination of poliovirus disease, and must produce a valid (ICV- International Certificate of Vaccination).

In relation to Filipino Crew;

All vessels entering Indonesian water for loading/ discharging activities, the Quarantine officers will check all crew for valid certificate of vaccination.

As an update please be advised that Filipinos are now expected to present polio vaccination certificates before they can be granted visas or entry permits in the following additional countries:

**BRUNEI**

Polio vaccination is required for travelers arriving from polio-affected countries (polio-exporting countries).

**GEORGIA**

A polio vaccination certificate is required from travelers arriving from countries and territories with risk of polio transmission. Travelers who are not vaccinated or unable to present a vaccination certificate are offered oral polio vaccine at the border.

**LEBANON**

Polio vaccination is required for travelers arriving from or going to affected countries.

**MALDIVES**

Proof of polio vaccination is required for persons travelling to and from countries exporting poliovirus as well as for Hajj and Umrah pilgrims.

**MOROCCO**

An international certificate of immunization, attesting to the taking of a dose of poliomyelitis vaccine over a period of 12 months and 4 weeks prior to departure, is required for all travelers from poliomyelitis-affected countries.

**OMAN**

Polio vaccination is required for travelers arriving from polio-exporting countries.

**PAKISTAN**

Administration of mandatory oral polio vaccine (OPV) to all outgoing international travelers and incoming long-term visitors of all ages, and an International Certificate of Vaccination as proof of vaccination are required.

**QATAR**

International certificate of polio vaccination is required for all travelers arriving from polio-exporting countries.

**SEYCHELLES**

Polio vaccination is required for travelers arriving from countries with polio outbreaks.

Andy Malpass MM  
President Pandiman Philippines Inc.

