

COVID-19 vaccination in Taiwan

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In view of the recent increasing numbers of Covid cases as well as vaccines that Taiwan government received from Japan and US, Taiwan CDC has just revised COVID-19 vaccine priority list, and please note that seafarers working on international commercial vessels (including Taiwan vessels and FOC vessels) are qualified as the 3rd group (People at higher risk of exposure to Covid-19 due to their jobs). However, only Taiwan seafarers are qualified to have vaccination, and under current orders they shall check with designated hospitals/ clinics for date for receiving vaccination.

As only crewmembers that are at shore can receive vaccination at designated hospitals/ clinics, but this would cause problem to those serving onboard, who would not be convenient to accommodate such request, we understand your Member China Steel Express, who are keen to have their seafarer taking vaccine to well prepare for calling at Australian ports in case it will be required by the Australian authority or port operator to allow only vaccinated seafarers' entry, will submit special application to relevant health authority for qualified Taiwan seafarer serving on vessel when calling at Taiwanese port to receive vaccination from approved hospital/ clinic medical staffs at port when the ship berths alongside the wharf/ berth. It is not sure if relevant authority would allow CSE's such special application, but we shall let you know shall we hear further from CSE.

For other Taiwanese carriers, as far as we are aware, no special arrangement have been made by them for crew to receive Covid vaccination, we think it is because vaccinated seafarers are not yet a condition for their trading.

Re pandemic situation in Taiwan, in the past few days the number of infection cases has been slightly reduced but not yet to a level to ease the Level 3 Alert which currently still continues till 28 June. There is the likelihood that this might continue through July if no significant "curve flattening" in this/next week. Meantime, vaccination is taking place nation-wide but for now only the top 3 priority group. In any event, we are monitoring the position closely.

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