



AMERICAN SHIPPING COMPANY

“News Flash”

March 21, 2020

“ESSENTIAL” SERVICES AND PRODUCTS WILL BE PRIORITY

As more COVID-19 plans and strategies continue to evolve causing the landscape to change almost daily and some cases hourly, we would like to help bring some clarity to what is taking place in terms of transportation and logistics in the USA, at least for now.

- The key word is “ESSENTIAL”
- Essential businesses are involved in the significant impact to day to day lives. Such examples included, but are not limited to, banks, hospitals, supermarkets, pharmacies, gas stations, post offices, and transportation related companies.
- Government, lawmakers and businesses have continued to focus on essential products such as medical products, food, energy, and all items that are certainly required for survival and combating this pandemic.
- Essential services include those that are actively supporting commerce and supply chains, including manufacturing, fulfilling, distributing and making available all the elements and products needed at a time of crisis.
- We have been guided that carriers, freight forwarders, customs brokers (and other intermediaries) as well as warehouses, continue to be permitted to provide these “essential” services to maintain the necessary actions to keep goods moving in commerce. American Shipping Company has taken a “business as usual” approach and will maintain our operations and information flow accordingly. We continue to utilize both office and home support functions to maintain a seamless process, while observing COVID-19 safety and health guidance. Our contingency plan is designed to manage our business and services offsite, should there be any federal, state or local mandates that impact any of our teams, nationwide.
- Even in the action by California to mandate a stay at home restriction for over 40 million residents, it was noted that “It exempts workers in 16 federal critical infrastructure sectors, including food and agriculture, healthcare, transportation, energy, financial services, emergency response and others.
- There continue to be no immediate plans or strategies to close ports, terminals, rail ramps, or stop the flow of cargo that is currently in the pipeline. It is fair to anticipate delays. In the case of the port of Houston, which we reported on yesterday, it was closed for 24 hours to implement a contingency plan upon a person contracting COVID-19. The matter was addressed and has since reopened today. The port of Miami did not close completely, rather is on a temporary schedule due to a result of very low cargo activity and in their announcement defined specific days of operations. Exceptions like this should not be ruled out and can continue to happen case by case.
- Changes can come at any time, both domestically and internationally and we have seen more announcements that are now focusing on “ESSENTIAL” business and services amidst the focus of COVID-19 action plans. This is predominantly to take immediate action of keeping the supply chains efficient, free flowing and allow for the highest level of priority for products and services urgently needed to support our federal, state and local communities. This is also going to help support our government as Emergency War Powers have been put in effect and the Defense Production Act put into action.

Uncertainty in the coming weeks will create many more challenges. We do highly recommend that you prepare for continued disruptions, increased costs, and potential obstacles for weeks to come. This should be exercised on a global basis. Please do your best to plan in advance and communicate with all parties involved in your transactions.

We will continue to keep you advised as to what we learn in the market and continue to highlight anything of significance.

OFFICE LOCATIONS

Moonachie, NJ (201-478-4600) * Long Beach, CA (562-435-2327) * Schaumburg, IL (630-860-0782) * Jacksonville, FL (904-240-3183)
 Hong Kong * Shenzhen * Guangzhou * Shanghai * Ningbo * Nanjing * Dalian * Tianjin * Qingdao * Xiamen * Taiwan * Vietnam, Cambodia, Indonesia, India

DOMESTIC CARGO OPERATIONS

Kearny, NJ (201) 772-560

3PL LOCATIONS

Fontana, CA * Ontario CA * Joliet, IL * Kearny, NJ (Central Ops)