

A Novel Global Public Health Service: Seafarer COVID Vaccinations

Renee' Menkens, MS, RN
Coos Health and Wellness Staff

Cathy Salyers, MSN, PHN
Medical Reserve Corps
Volunteer



Aim:

This presentation provides a perspective on a novel global public health initiative for COVID vaccinations to foreign seafarers and longshoremen at *Coos Bay* terminals.



M/V GT Persephone

A view of the bay
from the
starboard of the
M/V Princess Lily



Objectives:

- Understand the impact of COVID vaccine access on the international seafarer population and port communities
- Discuss the importance of local collaboration in global COVID vaccination access
- Explain how COVID vaccinations enhance the health and wellness in the local and seafarer population
- Identify the critical nature of goodwill in global relations from a local perspective



Vaccinated!
On the main deck of the
M/V Forest Harmony

Approach to solving a public health problem:

The *Port of Coos Bay* is the first U.S. western port to initiate this free-of-charge unique service through local collaboration, prompting other ports to follow suit.



M/V Forest Harmony

On the main deck of the M/V Princess Lily



Context:

COVID vaccination delivery to foreign seafarers is facilitated by

- Jones Stevedoring, with support from
- Coos Health & Wellness (CHW) and
- Coos County Medical Reserve Corp (MRC)



On the main deck
of the
M/V Princess Lily
looking towards
Hwy 101



On the
Bow of the
M/V GT
Demeter



The *Port of Coos Bay* is Oregon's largest deep draft coastal harbor. It includes three freighter shipping terminals that ship wood chips, logs and garnet. Brings in over \$4 million to community per year.

Logs ready to ship at Ocean Terminal



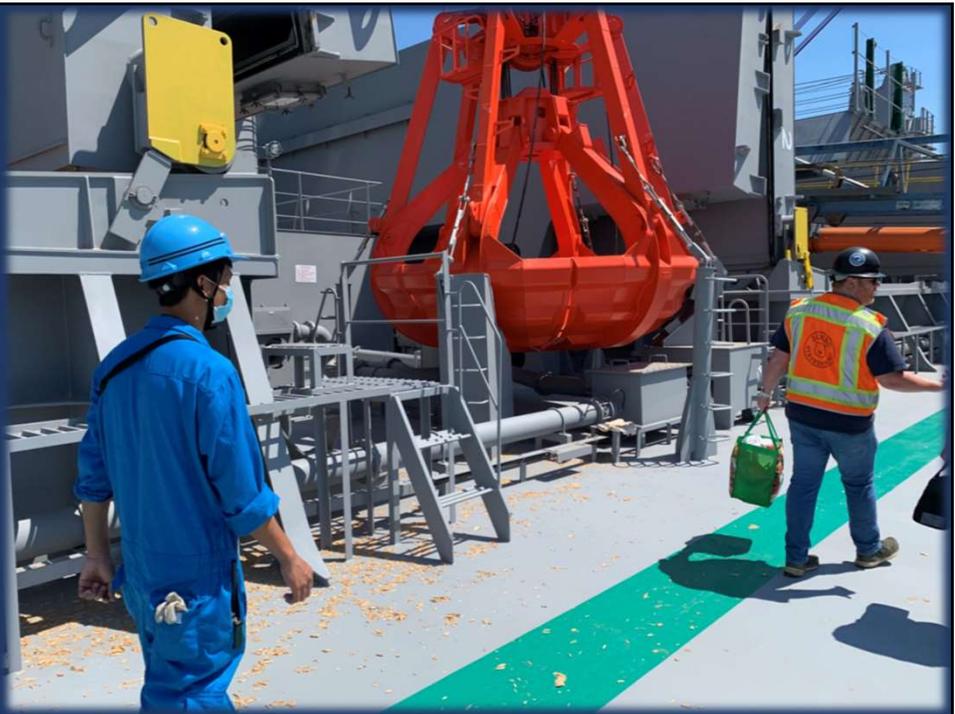
Coos Bay garnet facility



Log Ship loaded
preparing to
depart.



On the main deck
of the
M/V Princess Lily

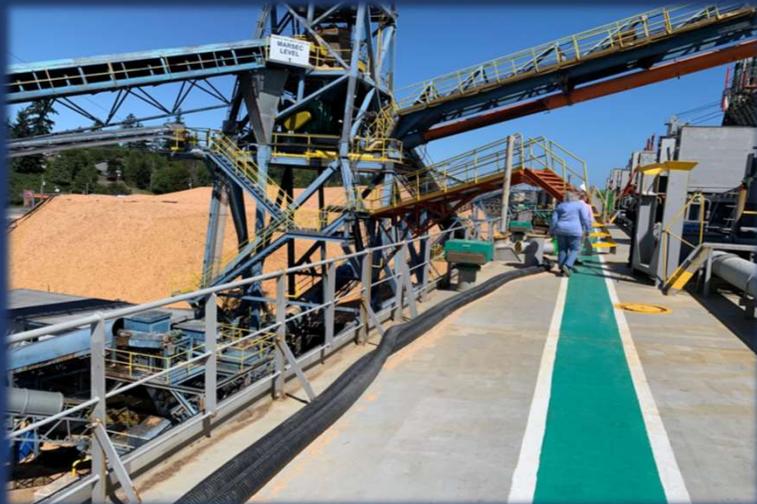


Port of Coos Bay
Freighter Shipping Terminals:

- Oregon – wood chips
- Ocean – logs
- Roseburg – wood chips



Oregon Terminal
on the main deck
of the
M/V Princess Haru



Medical Resources on Ships and Port

- Small, one bed Infirmary (hospital)
- Captain has basic medical and surgical training
- Captain must announce that a crew member is sick
- Pilot makes determination to come to port – depends on disease
- May transport to local hospital for evaluation or
- NP from Portland boards ship to evaluate



The M/V Glorious Peony : Roseburg Terminal

The impact of COVID illness on foreign seafarers and port communities:

The size of the crew on one of these vessels averages 20



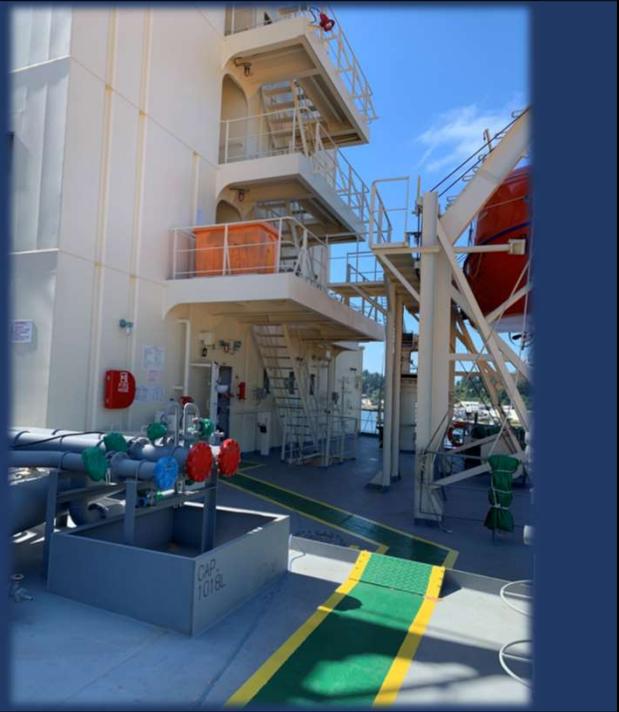
At the Oregon Terminal on the main deck of the M/V Princess Lily



Foreign seafarers are especially challenged when ill.

If we get sick while at home:

- We quarantine;
- A family member or a friend will assist us with groceries or other needs
- We have a medical community around us consisting of healthcare providers, pharmacies, and hospitals



When at sea, quarantining is difficult:

- The staff live and work in close quarters – 6-9 month contract
- The entire staff is at risk for contracting the sickness
- There is no family support
- No health care provider
- No pharmacy
- No shore leave during Covid pandemic

**Keeping the crew healthy
is a large priority**



The main hall of the house structure on the M/V Forest Harmony

At the Roseburg terminal on the deck of the M/V Esprit Lotus



M/V Ince Point



Giving COVID vaccinations in a crew dining area on ship

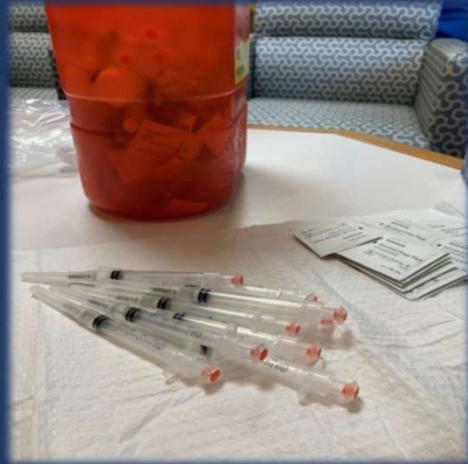


A view of the bay from the starboard of the M/V Princess Lily

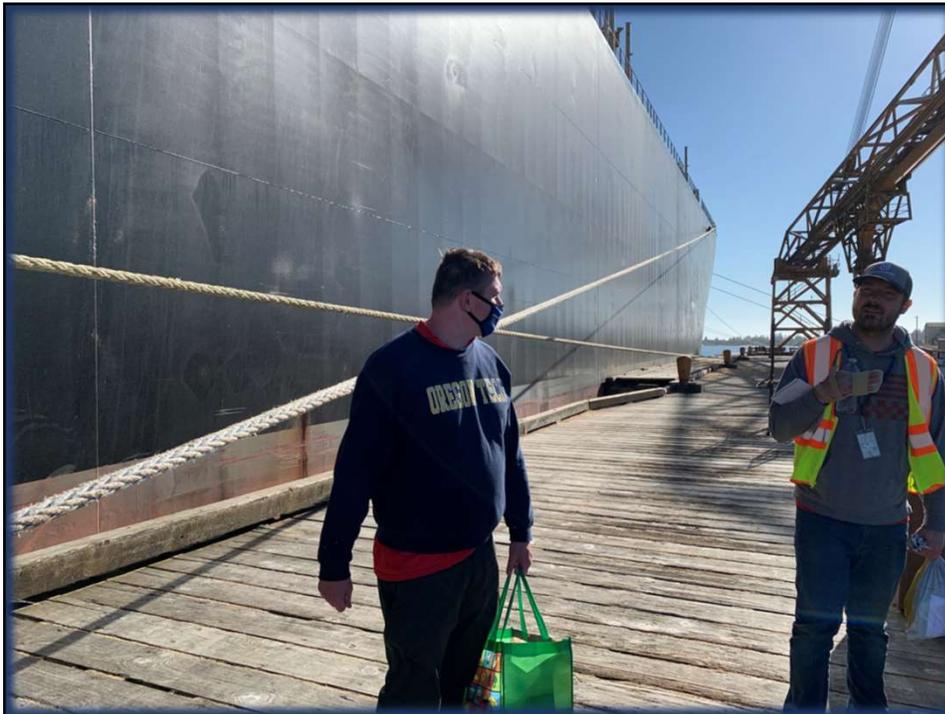
The importance of local collaboration in global COVID Vaccination access cannot be underestimated.

When arranging a vaccination or booster opportunity, there are many things to consider:

- Vaccine supply
- Previous vaccine history of the crew
- Staffing; vaccine administrators and clerical support;
 - Both CHW and an MRC volunteer
- Stevedore availability
- Captain support for crew vaccines



Vaccines ready on the
M/V Princess Lily



On the dock at
the Roseburg
Terminal by
M/V Glorious
Hibiscus

Continued – issues to consider

- Crew availability
- Where the ship is in terms of arrival, departure and loading
 - Limited window of opportunity to vaccinate,
 - We cannot vaccinate when the crew has just arrived or when they are preparing the vessel for departure
 - Cannot vaccinate when filling the hatches
 - A full hatch requires immediate ship repositioning so the next hatch can be loaded



Filling a hatch
on the
M/V Princess Lily

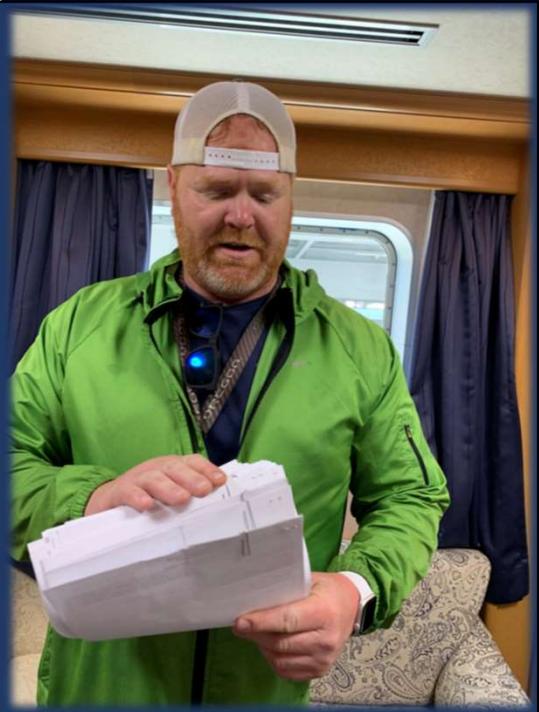
Completing the VAR



Continued – issues to consider

Vaccination Logistics/Role

- Schedule coordination with stevedore/ship captain
- Connect with CHW
- Verify vaccine in stock
- Obtain the crew list with pertinent information:
 - Name
 - Birthdate and
 - COVID Vaccination dates and brand
 - Review for vaccine type, booster vs primary dose
- Paperwork – VAR and vaccine card



To board the ship we ascend at least four stories on the outside of the ship via a shaky, temporarily placed stair ladder.



The M/V Glorious Peony

From a local perspective, *positive global relations are established* as our community; CHW, the MRC, and Jones Stevedoring make the effort to provide essential COVID vaccinations and boosters.



We also give them each a brochure published by the local Chamber of Commerce:

- Inside the brochure we place a dollar bill



Logs ready
to load,
viewed
from the
deck of the
M/V Ince
Point



Crew Nationalities

Bangladesh
Chinese
Indian
Japanese
Myanmar
Philippine
Vietnamese

Average Crew Age : 25



At the Roseburg
terminal on the
BBC Illinois



Crew Vaccinations 2021-2022

2021	# vaccinated	2022	#vaccinated
May	15	January	0
June	42	February	18
July	42	March	26
August	42	April	0
September	22	May	17
October	0	June	6
November	0	July	0
December	0	August	36
Total	153	Total	103

Logs ready to load
at the Ocean
Terminal



Preparing to
vaccinate the crew.

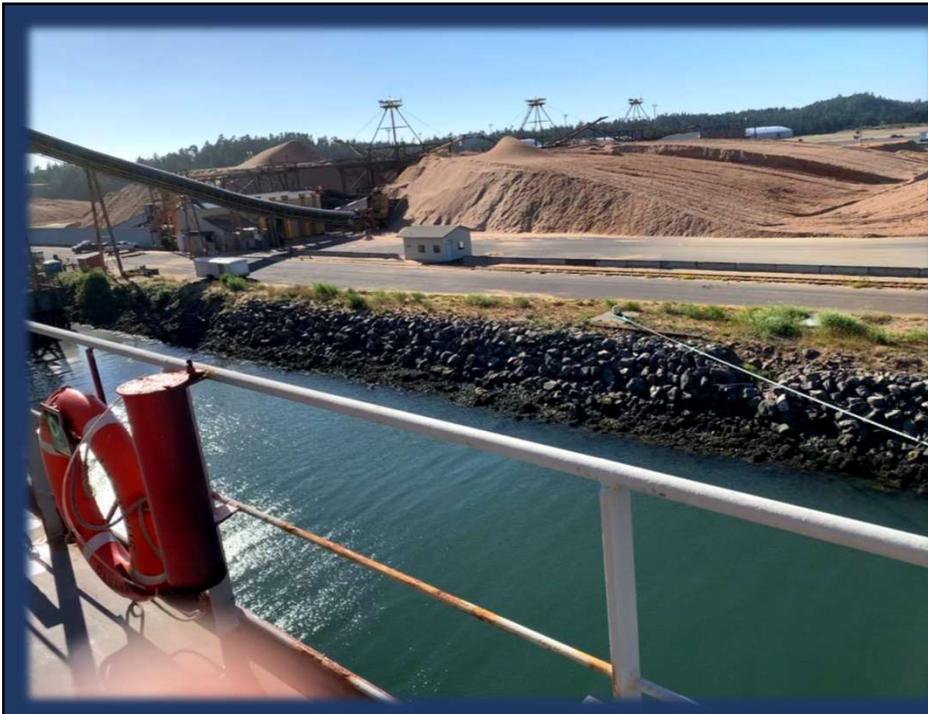
Bridge of the
M/V BBC Illinois!





Vaccinations ready on the
M/V Hydrangea

Refreshments on the
M/V World Rei



At the
Roseburg
Terminal;
on the main
deck of the
M/V
Glorious
Hibiscus



In the house structure of the
M/V Ince Point



The Captain on the bridge of the
M/V Forest Harmony

At the Oregon
Terminal on the
main deck of the
M/V Princess
Haru





On the stern of
the
M/V Princess Lily

Implications for public health:

Vaccination access for
foreign seafarers:

- 1) Reduces COVID transmission,
- 2) Provides a healthier workplace
- 3) Reduces concerns of COVID transmission in port communities.



On the main deck of the M/V Princess Lily

Summary:

Through the partnerships of CHW, the MRC and Jones Stevedoring, a vital service for foreign seafarers is provided.



Crew from the M/V Glorious Peony