

## Abstract

Maritime transport is of vital importance to insure the supply chain. The Port of Antwerp succeeded to stay operational during the COVID-19 pandemic. This paper aims to point out the sanitary legislation applicable on an incoming international sea vessel with destination the Port of Antwerp during the COVID pandemic and to decide on bottlenecks.

Desk research and interviews helped me to gather the needed information. Saniport as federal health authority shared sources and figures on the COVID-19 outbreak which contributed a lot to my insight into the subject.

The lack of standard operating procedures when dealing with infectious diseases in our Belgian points of entry turned out to be a clear obstacle. The vital importance of the human factor on board reveals a second bottleneck. The ship with its limited surface and a lot of human contact makes it the most vulnerable place for the spread of infectious diseases. To keep the maritime chain going during a pandemic, the good functioning of the ship seems key.

A written and clear protocol pointing out the range of necessary measures for each of the infectious diseases will contribute in the future to reduce the health risks on board. Important visitors of a vessel like the pilot or other port authority can implement them in their own protocols.