



Albany Maritime Ministry – the latest news!

October 23, 2021

It's been a while since we've had a newsletter or an update on our web page. As is the case in so many places the Covid-19 pandemic has affected the Albany Maritime Ministry. In addition, we are continuing our search for someone willing to be our techy and keep our web page up to date; and our search for a new administrative director.

The pandemic has meant the closing of the center. Many if not most crews are not allowed to leave the ship for a variety of reasons. The Center is also too small a space to practice safe distancing for the pandemic. Albany Maritime Ministry has adjusted to the limitation and we are doing our best to bring hospitality bags to the ships. We look forward to the day when we can reopen the Center and provide transportation for seafarers to local sites.

One of the reasons crews cannot leave the ship is they are not vaccinated and a 14-day quarantine will exist long past their time in the port. Since the ships are usually in the port for 3 days or less it would not be possible to get any vaccine except the Johnson & Johnson.

The Albany Maritime Ministry has been gifted with a retired medical doctor. He has a working relationship with a local pharmacy, and with enough notice we can obtain vaccines for crew members. The Port of Albany through the Albany Maritime Ministry was the first port on the entire east coast of the United States to offer vaccines to seafarers.

It is a real joy to see the excitement and thankfulness of the crews. Many of them take selfies showing their card with proof of vaccine and the Band-Aid where the shot was administered. There is relief and hopefulness as they send these pictures to family and friends. We are providing vaccines to approximately one ship every other week. The vaccines are free, but ships are asked to donate



A Happily Vaccinated Crew with AMM Volunteers