

# Coronavirus (COVID-19) Communications

## Jennifer Boykin Video Message to the Workforce



Newport News Shipbuilding  
A Division of Huntington Ingalls Industries

March 20, 2020



Shipbuilders...

A week ago, I wrote to you about Coronavirus, and discussed the importance of learning as much as we could to protect ourselves, our loved ones, our teammates, and our community.

I also committed to regularly communicate with you as decisions were made that impacted you and shipyard operations.

None of us knew at the time how quickly conditions would evolve, and how impactful it would be to our daily lives.

In just the past seven days, we have made many decisions and taken quick action to keep you safe, provide flexible work options, and take care of you if you become ill.

This is a dynamic situation, and the reality is, what we think of as normal may be no more.

We have to prepare for many of the societal changes we are seeing being the new normal way of life – at home, at work and in our communities.

I want you to know this. Determining how we operate under extreme conditions is not new to us.

Whether its hurricanes, power outages, or other threats, crisis management is central to an operation like ours.

We practice and drill to these plans – and that is helping us today.

We review plans for keeping our employees, the ships and our facility safely operating under extreme conditions. Equally important, though, we are planning for the eventual return to full production.

Is everything perfect? No, it's not.

But you have a lot of shipbuilding teammates working around the clock to ensure the continuity of operations.

I have received questions about the motivation to keep the shipyard open.

It reminded me how critical it is to communicate the importance of what we do for our nation.

Our work – and the work of our suppliers – is mission critical to the United States of America.

I received a letter on March 19th from Assistant Secretary of the Navy, James Geurts, emphasizing the importance of employee health and safety while also emphasizing the importance of ship construction and repair efforts we perform in support of the national defense.

He says that delivering or redelivering our ships to the fleet is a national need that is unwavering and crucial to our national security.

Newport News Shipbuilding and the shipbuilding industry have been identified as a critical infrastructure industry in accordance with the President's Coronavirus Guidelines and the Presidential Policy Directive on Critical Infrastructure Security and Resilience.

Our work is considered mission essential at the national level.

As a defense contractor, we are a national asset, and it is our job to keep Newport News Shipbuilding going – and to provide critical assets to our Navy.

While many in our community don't have the option to work, our company has been the economic engine of this community for 134 years. It has to stay that way.

You can be assured there will be work on the other side of this pandemic.

We stay open because it's our job...

And because it supports freedom.... for all of us.

Please remember that while today's national emergency is being fought with healthcare workers and quarantines, our ships and sailors could be on the frontlines tomorrow.

Thank you for being strong, for being safe and for being a shipbuilder.