



Novel Coronavirus Information Sheet

There is currently an outbreak of novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) in mainland China.

What are the symptoms of coronavirus?

Symptoms of coronavirus include fever, cough, sore throat and difficulty breathing. Difficulty breathing is a sign of possible pneumonia that requires immediate medical attention.

How does coronavirus spread?

Coronavirus is most likely to spread from person to person through:

- Direct contact with a person while they are infectious;
- Contact with droplets when a person with a confirmed infection coughs or sneezes; or
- Touching objects or surfaces that are contaminated by droplets from secretions coughed or sneezed from a person with a confirmed infection, and then touching your mouth or face.

What is Australia doing?

Australia has put in place extra border measures, health screening and isolation recommendations for people and vessels travelling to Australia from mainland China.

The Department of Agriculture, Water and Environment is in contact with international vessels to ensure they understand the requirements and comply with pre-arrival reporting of ill travellers.

Information is being provided to travellers at international ports explaining the symptoms of coronavirus and encouraging them to report to biosecurity officers if they have symptoms while in the port.

On 1 February 2020, Australia introduced isolation and additional border recommendations for people arriving in Australia who have left or transited through mainland China on or after this date.

For the marine industry, these new requirements only apply to vessels which meet the additional coronavirus requirements listed below.

What vessels have additional coronavirus requirements?

- Vessels that have left, or transited through, mainland China on or after 1 February 2020 and less than 14 days ago.
- Vessels with crew or passengers who have left, or transited through, mainland China on or after 1 February 2020 and less than 14 days ago.
- Vessels that have had ill crew or passengers on board in the past 14 days.
- Vessels that have crew or passengers who have been in contact with a confirmed case of novel coronavirus in the past 14 days



How do I find out if a vessel may be subject to additional coronavirus requirements?

The vessel is legally required to provide this information in the pre-arrival report through Maritime Arrivals Reporting System (MARS).

If you are boarding a vessel which has not yet completed the pre-arrival report, you should contact the vessel agent to find out this information.

How can I reduce my risk?

Person to person spread of the coronavirus is reported as occurring, but it is not yet understood how easily this happens. The following measures will help reduce the risk:

- Where possible, contact with persons on board the vessel should be limited to essential crew.
- Pilots should wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE), (surgical masks and gloves) while on board a vessel that meets the criteria for additional coronavirus requirements listed above, as a precautionary measure. Replace masks if they become damp or soiled.
- Pilots should avoid touching their mouth, eyes, and nose with unwashed or gloved hands.
- Pilots should wash their hands frequently while on board the vessel with soap and water, or use alcohol based hand sanitiser.
- Where possible, pilots should stay one metre or more away from crew unless wearing appropriate PPE.
- If a pilot becomes aware of any ill person on board, they should contact their local port authority, public health authority, ask the vessel master to report the illness in their pre-arrival report, and disembark accordingly.

Am I subject to enhanced health screening and isolation recommendations if I pilot a vessel?

By following these guidelines, marine pilots are exempt from Australia's health screening and isolation recommendations on arrival into Australian ports.

If you have been in contact with ill persons while on board the vessel, make yourself known to the biosecurity officer on arrival.

What should I do if I develop symptoms after disembarking the vessel?

With appropriate precautions, it is extremely unlikely that any illness or symptoms you develop could be related to this virus. If, however, you become ill, inform your doctor or clinic when making an appointment that you have had some contact with people who may have had exposure to coronavirus.

You should also:

- Wash your hands frequently.
- Use good cough and sneeze hygiene – cover your mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing and wash your hands afterwards.



- Inform your supervisor of your symptoms.

Will I be contacted if I have been exposed to someone with coronavirus?

When someone is diagnosed with coronavirus in Australia, health authorities conduct contact tracing. Public health staff contact people who had close contact with the ill person during their contagious period. Close contact is when a person has spent more than 15 minutes face-to-face or more than two hours in a closed room with an infected person (without PPE).

You will be notified by staff if you have been in close contact with someone who has coronavirus and you will be given information and advice relevant to your exposure. It is most unlikely that a marine pilot following the advice given in this document would have close contact with an ill person.

Other information

While coronavirus is of concern and we remain vigilant, it is currently influenza season in the northern hemisphere. It is more likely that travellers displaying infectious symptoms have a common respiratory infection, rather than coronavirus.

Where can I get more information about coronavirus?

For health-related biosecurity questions while on board:

- Contact the Maritime National Co-ordination Centre 1300 004 605 (operating hours 6am-6pm Australian Central Standard Time , for urgent after hours enquiries call +61 417 666 648)

For general coronavirus questions:

- Visit www.health.gov.au
- Call the National Coronavirus Health Information Line on 1800 020 080. The line operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
- If you need to communicate with a non-English speaking person, contact the Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS National). Telephone interpreters are available immediately by calling 131 450.