

Memorandum

008/2020

To: Pilotage, towage and port services members
From: Tim Higgs - President
Subject: Novel coronavirus
Date: 6th February 2020

Dear Members

Over the last few days we have been working with the various Government Departments to get the information out to industry to best inform the membership on how they can deal with and protect themselves from novel coronavirus.

Today I have been involved in the Department of Infrastructure *Maritime Response* teleconference asking questions and seeking clarification on behalf on the membership.

The Australian Border Force (ABF) has released a notice to restricted entry to Australia information sheet for commercial vessels. This is attached for your information. The Health Department has revised the original novel coronavirus notice for Marine Pilots version 1. Version 2 has been adopted today by the Maritime Response group today but is yet to be released.

As you are aware on 1st February 2020, Australia introduced isolation and additional border recommendations for persons arriving in Australia who have left or transited through mainland China on or after 1st February 2020.

It is worth noting that the restrictions that are in place are only for those vessels that have transited direct from mainland China on or after 1st February 2020. The new requirements from the ABF are the baseline and there are some ports that have taken further measures. You will need to consult your port management to see if there is anything specific over and above the ABF requirements and or the Health Department's advice.

Further information from today's teleconference:

For marine vessels, these new requirements only apply to ships that left China on or after 1 February 2020. When pilots are meeting ships that arrive after 1 February but left China before 1 February, pilots do not need to take the additional precautions outlined in this information sheet.

How does 2019-nCoV spread?

2019-nCoV 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.*

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 personal protective equipment).

Useful links:

For general information concerning the novel coronavirus please refer to the Department of Health website:

<https://www.health.gov.au/health-topics/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov>

<https://www.msq.qld.gov.au/About-us/News-and-stories/Coronavirus>

As soon as more information and the updated fact sheets are available, we will distribute them.

As always stay safe

Tim Higgs
President