



Information for marine pilots

Additional immigration and reporting requirements and isolation recommendations apply to travellers who have been in, or transited through, a country other than Australia in the past 14 days.

What are the symptoms of COVID-19?

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

How does COVID-19 spread?

COVID-19 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 will deny entry to foreign nationals from 2100 AEDST on 20 March 2020.

Exceptions include Australian citizens and permanent residents (and their immediate family) and New Zealand nationals resident in Australia. International airline and maritime crew will also have some exemptions.

Australian citizens will be restricted from travelling overseas from 25 March 2020. Exemptions may include airline and maritime crew and associated safety workers.

More information on the bans and exemptions is available from Australian Border Force.

On 15 March 2020, the Australian Government announced a temporary ban on cruise ships that have left a foreign port. More information on the ban and possible exemptions is available from Australian Border Force.

From 16 March 2020, travellers arriving in Australia are required to undertake a precautionary self-isolation period of up to 14 days after entry into Australia. For more information about requirements for travellers, read the 'Information for Travellers' and 'Isolation guidance' fact sheet. Go to www.health.gov.au/covid19-travellers.

Information is being provided to travellers at international ports explaining the symptoms of COVID-19 and encouraging them to report to biosecurity officers if they have symptoms while in the port.

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

Australia requires any cruise vessel arriving in Australia to deliver verbal announcements to encourage self-reporting of ill health by travellers, and to inform travellers of their obligation to declare whether they are experiencing specific symptoms.

What vessels have additional COVID-19 isolation requirements?

- International cruise vessels
- Vessels with crew or passengers who have left, or transited through, any country other than Australia in the last 14 days
- Vessels that have ill crew or passengers or suspected cases of COVID-19 on board.
- Vessels that have crew or passengers who have been in contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19 in the past 14 days.

How do I find out if a vessel may be subject to additional COVID-19 isolation 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) while on board a vessel that meets the criteria for additional COVID-19 isolation 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 rub.
- Where possible, pilots should stay 1.5 metres 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 and public health authority, ask the vessel master to report the illness in their pre-arrival report.
- The ill crew member or passenger should isolate on the vessel in a single cabin until further direction is given by a biosecurity officer or human biosecurity officer.

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 self-isolation recommendations on arrival into Australian ports.

Marine pilots following this advice are not required to complete an Isolation Declaration Card on arrival.

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

If you do not follow the advice in this fact sheet, you will be required to isolate yourself for 14 days from the time of disembarkation from the vessel.

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. The clinic will provide you with information on how to safely seek medical care.

You should also:

- Wash your hands frequently using soap and water or use alcohol-based hand rub.
- 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 COVID-19?

When someone is diagnosed with coronavirus in Australia, health authorities conduct contact tracing.

You will be notified by health staff if you have been in contact with someone who has COVID-19 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

The Department of Health is closely monitoring the situation in collaboration with the World Health Organization and Australian states and territories.

Where can I get more information about COVID-19?

For questions about the temporary ban on international cruise ships or travel restrictions:

- Contact the Australian Border Force Border Operations Centre at **+61 1300 368 126**

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 COVID-19 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.
- The phone number of your state or territory public health authority is available at www.health.gov.au/state-territory-contacts