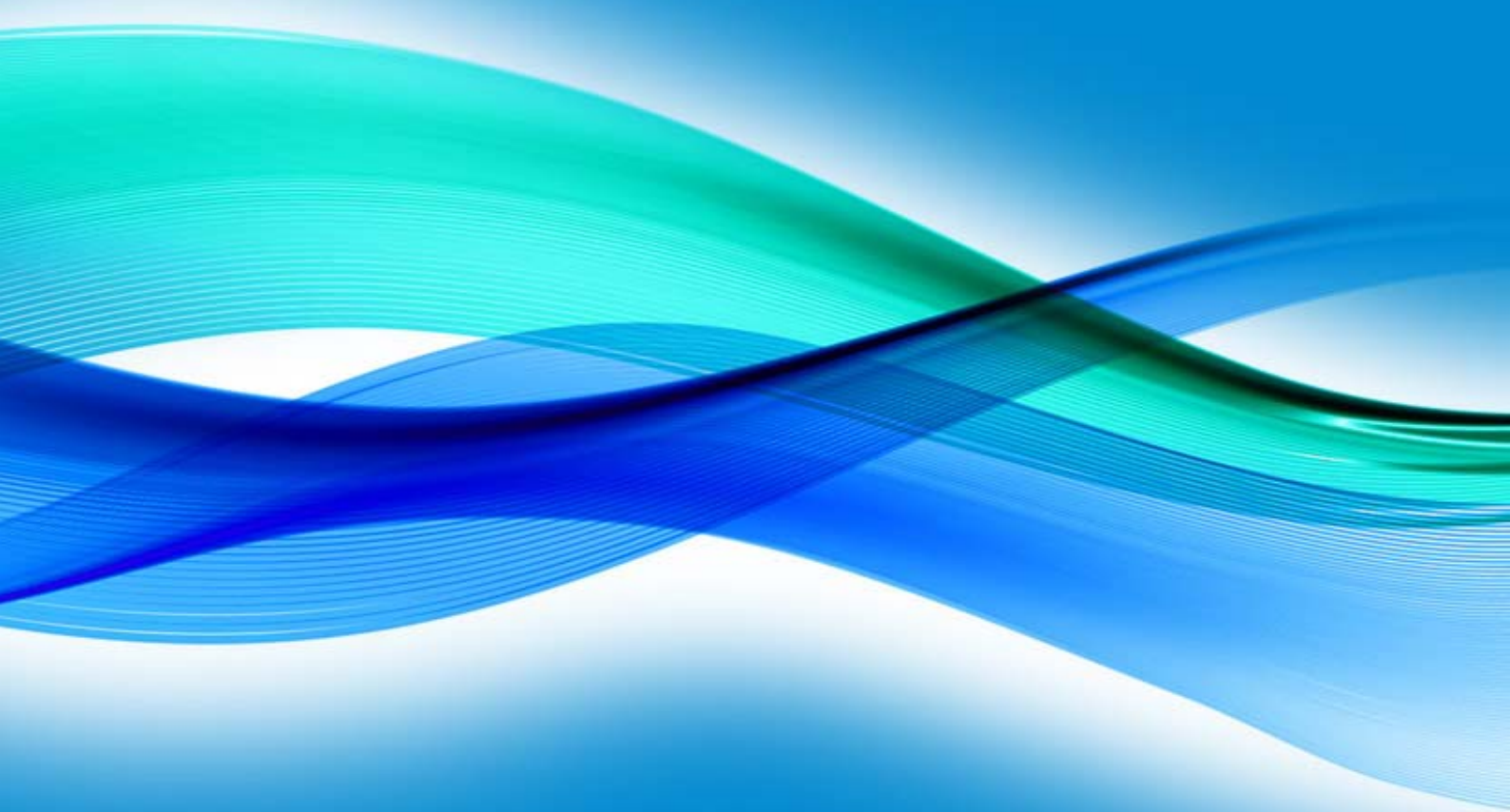


COVID-19 Maritime Industry Update 47

17 September 2020

This update is for the maritime industry and port supply chain



COVID-19 Maritime Industry Update 47

Last updated: 17 September 2020

This document is uncontrolled if printed. Please refer to the Maritime New Zealand website for the latest version.

In this guide

1.	Revised Alert Level 2 Guidance for transport operators	3
2.	Updated COVID-19 Health Order for required testing	4
3.	Outbound destination isolation requirements	7
4.	COVID-19 Public Health Response (Required Testing) Amendment Order Stakeholder Engagement	8
5.	Small Craft Guidance update	9
6.	Super Yachts coming to New Zealand	10
7.	Upcoming guidance	11
8.	Face covering posters	12
9.	Key sources of information	13

1. Revised Alert Level 2 Guidance for transport operators

The Ministry of Health has updated the Guidance for transport operators from Monday 14 September.

Physical distancing no longer needs to be observed on public transport services, including ferry operators. The change only applies on-board the ferry; there is no change to physical distancing measures at the ferry terminals.

Passengers are still encouraged to keep their distance from others where it is possible to do so, and there is no change to mandatory face covering requirements.

Ferry operators are still required to display QR codes (where they do not require the contact details of passengers to use their services); and passengers should still be encouraged to track their travel (including scanning QR codes where these are displayed).

The official guidance and online collateral has been updated and can be accessed below:

<https://www.transport.govt.nz/about/covid-19/transport-and-travel-by-alert-level/>

<https://www.transport.govt.nz/about/covid-19/>

The Maritime Industry Update is issued weekly, usually on each Wednesday. However, publication days might change when there is a need to provide a quick update.

If you have any questions about updates, or suggestions for what you would like included, please contact Maritime NZ by emailing maritimeCSE@maritimenz.govt.nz.

2. Updated COVID-19 Health Order for required testing

The Ministry of Health has updated the health order and updated the guidance around Required Testing as at 23:59, Wednesday 16 September. **This order extends the requirement for mandatory testing of all “higher-risk” workers to all maritime ports that receive a ship from a location outside of New Zealand.**

Accompanying this Maritime Industry Update is the Ministry of Health’s guidance for implementing the Required Testing Amendment Order at New Zealand Maritime Ports. This will be updated and recirculated as required.

For higher-risk workers at ports that receive infrequent international vessels, testing only needs to take place when a vessel actually comes to the port. Testing should take place within a fortnight of the worker’s interaction with a vessel. If an international vessel arrives within 14 days of the previous international vessel arriving, tests should only take place every 14 days and not when the new arrival occurs.

There has been no change to the guidance around what constitutes a higher-risk worker (outlined below) and how often a higher-risk worker needs to be tested, i.e. once every 14 days.

This testing is in addition to the existing requirements that should already be in place, such as daily health checks and tests for workers who display symptoms as well as physical distancing, basic hygiene measures, and appropriate PPE use.

The higher-risk workers at all maritime ports that receive vessels from outside New Zealand, included under this updated testing regime include:

- pilots carrying out work on or around an affected ship
- stevedores carrying out work on or around an affected ship
- persons who board, or have boarded, an affected ship
- workers who transport persons to or from an affected ship (for example, the crew who transport the pilot to and from an affected vessel and port security staff transporting someone from the gate to the ship (e.g. a shipping agent)).

We have been asked questions around the operational implementation of the Order and we’re working through these with the relevant agencies and have responded below. We will provide further information when it comes to hand. Please contact Maritime NZ via email if you have any questions MaritimeCSE@maritimenz.govt.nz.

2. Updated COVID-19 Health Order for required testing (continued)

Your questions answered

1. Is progress being made on alternative testing methods as some workers are finding nasal testing painful?

A protocol for using throat swabs in conjunction with nasal swabs for border testing is being explored by the Ministry of Health, and they hope to have this shortly. The discomfort of a nasal swab is acknowledged, but for the present it remains the most reliable indicator of the presence of COVID-19 for both symptomatic and asymptomatic testing. Saliva testing is being explored but this is on a longer path.

2. When crew arrive from overseas via the airport and join a ship they are not tested, but will be in close contact with all other crew, and commencing duties that can result in interaction with stevedores. What is done to monitor the isolation and will the new crew members be tested?

Incoming crew re-set the isolation timeframe, which means that the 14 days starts again for everyone on board. Testing for non-disembarking crew is currently not MOH policy. All crew on board an affected ship (i.e. a vessel within a 14-day isolation and quarantine period) should be treated as infected and precautions taken (PPE and distancing). Customs are the lead agency for monitoring compliance, and if you're aware of specific cases where isolation and quarantine requirements aren't being adhered to, Customs staff at the port should be advised along with Maritime NZ.

In terms of shore leave, it would be possible for a crew who had returned negative tests, met the other low risk indicators, and been authorised to disembark for shore leave, to take their shore leave as long as they left the ship before the new crew arrives, and have no interaction with the incoming crew.

3. What is the process if a stevedore has not been tested within a 14 day period or refuses to have a test and who monitors the testing program?

The onus is on the stevedore to be tested; the obligation is only on the employer to make sure that staff know of the requirement. From a Maritime NZ perspective, we'd be expecting PCBUs to be looking at how you are managing the health risk of someone potentially being exposed but not being tested. The Ministry of Health advise that the individual DHBs are monitoring the mandatory testing under the Required Testing Order.

The relevant DHBs are confident that compliance is high at the Ports of Tauranga and Auckland – until midnight Wednesday 16 September, these are the only ports where testing of high risk workers (including stevedores) has been mandatory. They have reported that all workers at both ports in the higher-risk target group have been identified and tested/re-tested in the required timeframes.

Employers at the ports are provided with a letter to give their employees, explaining the procedures and need for testing, and that the testing is a mandatory requirement. Associated Q and A material explains that a person who refuses a test, who is not exempted and who has no reasonable excuse, may be subject to enforcement action. This is included in the guidance material that has been distributed.

2. Updated COVID-19 Health Order for required testing (continued)

4. How will testing in ports other than Tauranga and Auckland, be managed? Will it be onsite as it is in Tauranga and Auckland?

DHBs responsible for all ports around the country which deal with international vessel arrivals have worked with testing providers and port authorities to put plans in place for testing border staff and port workers. Most have procedures for testing on-site at the port, and referral systems to community testing centres to accommodate workers who may not be able to access testing on-site, e.g. because of shift work.

Testing has been ongoing at all ports dealing with international vessel arrivals since 10 August as part of the voluntary surveillance programme, in line with the overall national testing strategy. From midnight on Wednesday the testing requirements for workers in the higher-risk group become mandatory so we will expect to see testing under these already well-established procedures, ramp up. Each DHB manages its own testing plan for its respective port(s). General processes are set out in the guidance which has been circulated.

5. Are Lines crews required to be tested under the new requirements?

Lines crew and others who do not board the vessel (or interact with crew) and solely manage lines are not required to be tested under this Order.

6. Are pilot vessel crew who transport pilots to ships and anyone else who may be on the pilot vessel during the transfer, included under the testing order?

Pilot vessel crew and others who are on board when transporting a pilot to or from an affected ship are covered by the Order and therefore must be tested.

3. Outbound destination isolation requirements

We have been asked by MIQ to ensure NZ agents and operators managing international crew change are aware of destination requirements for isolation and quarantine when they or their clients are booking onward travel from NZ.

There was a situation in which outbound seafarers were denied boarding at Auckland because they did not have isolation bookings at their intended destination. This will cause disruptions in the chain at our end if seafarers are prevented from departing NZ.

IATA have provided this information portal: www.iatatravelcentre.com.

4. COVID-19 Public Health Response (Required Testing) Amendment Order Stakeholder Engagement

Last week we ran a piece around Required Testing stakeholder engagement which we would like to restate this week.

A small team from Maritime NZ, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Transport, and Customs will be running a series of workshops and meetings for industry and union representatives about the processes for the ongoing mandatory testing of workers.

These workshops will be an opportunity to understand the requirements, raise any questions and highlight any concerns or issues that need to be considered.

The orders (testing and otherwise) are being rolled out in multiple phases. These discussions will help inform the ongoing implementation and, as much as possible, help the Ministry of Health implement the orders in ways that minimise the impact on industry and workers. Our immediate operational guidance for ports and workers affected by any new orders will continue through our existing channels.

Moving forward, it is important for us to understand all of the views, challenges, and opportunities in the Maritime sector when new Orders are introduced and we will broaden the scope of this engagement as required.

In advance of this engagement, we invite you to send your concerns, questions and thoughts to MaritimeCSE@maritimenz.govt.nz. Please put Required Testing Order Engagement in the subject line. Your emails will be read and used as input in the engagement.

5. Small Craft Guidance update

Operational instructions for small craft travelling to New Zealand will soon be released.

Maritime NZ in association with other key agencies will be undertaking communications activities to ensure as many small craft as possible understand what they need to do before they depart to New Zealand and what to do when they arrive.

Central to all messaging is that the border is closed and foreign vessels will need to demonstrate genuine humanitarian grounds or other compelling needs to be considered for an exemption.

6. Super Yachts coming to New Zealand

The rules covering super yachts coming to New Zealand do not differ greatly to that of small craft, and we would like to highlight some key messages for clarity.

The border is closed and foreign vessels will need to demonstrate genuine humanitarian grounds or other compelling needs to be considered for an exemption. All arriving super yachts and crew must travel to a 'Place of First Arrival' (POFA) as directed by Customs. Traditional quarantine anchorages are not suitable under the Maritime Border Order and super yachts will not be allowed to isolate at any of these locations.

A suitable location in Auckland is currently being prepared for super yacht isolation and vessels and crew will need to isolate there until the 14-day isolation period is complete and the low risk indicators have been met, including a negative test.

The 14-day isolation can include journey time but this means the people on board must have had no contact with any other people or vessels during this time. Once in New Zealand territorial waters, super yachts must make their way to the POFA and cannot make up isolation time by mooring inside New Zealand territorial waters.

Once the isolation period of 14-days is complete and everyone on board has returned a negative COVID-19 test result, met the low risk indicators, and been provided clearance by a medical officer of health or health protection officer, the vessel and crew are free to travel on to the pre-approved and pre-arranged repair and refit providers.

7. Upcoming guidance

MNZ will soon be finalising guidance in a number of areas.

This will include:

- seafarer health and well-being
- crew changes
- international maritime industry updates from NZ
- NZ workers aboard visiting ships

8. Face covering posters

In our last update we notified the sector that face covering posters in a number of different languages are available.

We now have two versions of the 'Track your journey' and 'Wear a face covering' posters available.

If you see a use for these on your vessel, please get in touch with us at MaritimeCSE@maritimenz.govt.nz and if the language you choose has been translated into a poster, we will send it on to you.

9. Key sources of information

The following links provide you with key sources of information.

- For all your questions, and to provide information and make suggestions – Maritime NZ
maritimeCSE@maritimenz.govt.nz
- Port and maritime guidelines and other information
www.maritimenz.govt.nz – click on the COVID-19 banner on the home page
- Official health advice, including PPE guidance – Ministry of Health
www.health.govt.nz/
- Up-to-date information across the transport sector (land, sea and air) – Ministry of Transport
www.transport.govt.nz/about/covid-19/
- New Zealand's campaign to stamp out COVID-19
www.covid19.govt.nz
- Information for businesses operating under alert levels
www.business.govt.nz/covid-19/operating-at-alert-levels/
- Wage Subsidy Scheme information
www.workandincome.govt.nz/covid-19/resurgence-wage-subsidy/index.html
- Managed Isolation and Quarantine
www.miq.govt.nz/

Stamp it out



Practise good hygiene →

Wash your hands with soap. Cough or sneeze into your elbow. Clean surfaces.



Keep track of where you've been →

If COVID-19 reappears, help our health services reach people quickly to stop any further spread.



Stay home if you're sick →

If you have cold or flu symptoms, you should stay home and call your doctor or Healthline.