

COVID-19 Maritime Industry Update 110

25 July 2022

This guideline is for the maritime industry and port supply chain



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

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The Maritime Industry Update is issued fortnightly, usually on a Monday. 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 MNZCovid-19@maritimenz.govt.nz.

1. Maritime border reopening update

As reported in our last Maritime Industry update, the Maritime Border Order (MBO) has been amended to open the border up to previously banned foreign flagged vessels. However vessels must meet some additional health requirements.

We have attached some guidance produced by the Ministry of Health to help you interpret the key MBO changes, which come into effect at **11:59pm, 31 July 2022**. Vessels will now fall into one of two categories with different entry criteria attached.

Category 1

Category 1 vessels include commercial craft, as well as freight, fishing, fuel vessels, specialty vessels and research ships. Ferries returning to NZ after undergoing work off shore, also fall under Category 1.

All crew and passengers on Category 1 vessels must test for COVID-19 before disembarking, however there is no requirement to be vaccinated before arriving in New Zealand. RAT kits will be provided to arrivals and a negative test must be returned before anyone can leave the vessel.

The vessel's master must advise the Medical Officer of Health (MOoH) of all test results and if any positive tests are returned, arrivals will need to self-isolate for a minimum of 7 days. A follow up PCR test will be taken for anyone returning a positive RAT. Only those disembarking will need to test and essential tasks can be performed without testing.

Anyone on board a Category 1 vessel where there is a positive case, will be deemed a household contact, and will need to [isolate on board](#) along with the positive case.

Category 2

Category 2 vessels include all cruise ships, super yachts and recreational vessels. Unless they are excused or exempt, everyone arriving on a Category 2 vessel must be vaccinated before they arrive in New Zealand.

A person is excused if they hold a certificate from a medical practitioner that states for medical reasons, the holder should not be vaccinated. Exempt includes anyone under 16, New Zealand citizens, New Zealand residents, Australians normally resident in New Zealand [and a number of other criteria](#).

Under the MBO, ship's masters must have systems in place to ensure arrivals meet vaccination requirements, and must provide that evidence on request.

The ship will remain the primary place of isolation for anyone who tests positive for COVID-19 and household contacts under Category 2. Household contacts include anyone who shares a cabin with someone who tests positive for COVID-19.

2. COVID Protection Framework update

The Government recently reviewed New Zealand's COVID-19 settings and decided to remain at the [Orange setting for all of New Zealand](#).

With the flu season and the recent increase in the number of COVID-19 infections, additional measures are being introduced to help reduce the impact of COVID-19.

These new measures are outlined over the next two pages.

3. Antiviral access for those most at risk

In April, antiviral medications arrived to help reduce the numbers of people who may get seriously ill and require hospitalisation, and these have now been made easier for the more vulnerable groups in our population to access.

Last week Pharmac added a further 400,000 people to groups most likely to be hospitalised by COVID-19. Anyone over 75 who has tested positive for COVID-19, or indeed anyone who has been admitted to an Intensive Care Unit as a result of COVID-19, are now eligible to access antiviral medication through their GP.

GPs are able to speed up access to antivirals by providing what is known as a 'back pocket' prescription. This means the prescription is pre-approved so that when people become unwell with COVID-19, they are able to access the antiviral medication immediately.

Contact your GP to check if you are one of the groups who can access antiviral medication and ask for a back pocket prescription.

4. RATs and masks can be accessed free of charge

The Government is encouraging anyone who needs extra RATs or masks to visit a testing site and collect these items free.

Masks reduce the number of new infections and a further 10 million child-size masks have been made available for primary school-age children. Masks, along with vaccination, boosters and early detection of COVID-19 via a RAT, will help New Zealand through the winter months.

We urge anyone who needs these items, or indeed a vaccination to visit their [closest vaccination](#) or [testing site](#) to collect what they need.

Please note some vaccination centres offer flu and COVID-19 vaccines and may be able administer both at the same time. If your intention is to get both at the same time be sure to check with the vaccination centre to confirm they can provide both vaccines. If you've recently had COVID-19 you can have a flu vaccine as soon as you've recovered.

5. Payment for COVID-19 medical costs

COVID-19 healthcare is fully funded for up to 6 weeks from the first day symptoms develop or the date of the first positive test, whichever is earlier.

This will include one follow up check with your healthcare provided during that 6 week period. This will typically take place once the initial COVID-19 illness is over.

After the follow-up, if it is determined that the acute phase of COVID-19 has passed, you will need to pay for future GP visits and prescriptions, even if that falls within the 6 week period.

6. Answering your questions

There are a huge number of stakeholders in the maritime industry and ports' supply chain, and all of you are affected in different ways by COVID-19 and New Zealand's response to it.

If you have questions you would like answered, please email MNZCovid-19@maritimenz.govt.nz by 5pm, Friday each week.

7. Key sources of information

The following links provide you with key sources of information.

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| For all your questions, and to provide information and make suggestions – email Maritime NZ | MNZCovid-19@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 testing – 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/ |
| All New Zealand COVID-19 legislation | www.pco.govt.nz/covid-19-legislation/ |