

COVID-19 Maritime Industry Update 113

10 October 2022

This guideline is for the maritime industry and port supply chain



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In this guide

1. The Maritime Industry Update – our final issue	3
2. PPE update	4
3. COVID-19 maritime guidance	5
4. Cruise guidance	6
5. Small craft arriving in New Zealand	7
6. Latest on testing when travelling to New Zealand	8
7. Key sources of information	9

1. The Maritime Industry Update – our final issue

Since the first half of 2020, Maritime NZ has sent out the COVID-19 Maritime Industry Update to the ports and maritime sector on a regular basis. Initially it was weekly, moving to fortnightly earlier this year, to monthly for the past 3 or so issues.

It has been a rapidly changing and challenging task to keep you all updated on the latest COVID-19 developments and we'd like to thank you, our maritime sector partners, for all your cooperation and hard work during this uncertain and often difficult period.

Together we kept international shipping moving and ensured seafarers were supported and cared for, while strengthening our partnerships along the way.

The fact that very few COVID-19 cases have come through the maritime border is testament to the work and commitment the sector and border agencies have exhibited since March 2020, which has helped keep the supply chain moving, as well as employees, whānau, and communities safe.

We will be in contact if things change but for now, it's a fond farewell from the Maritime NZ COVID-19 Response Team.

2. PPE update

Following the changes to relax COVID-19 requirements around the country, including the removal of the Maritime Border Order, there is now no mandated requirement for NZ workers to wear masks or other PPE when boarding ships.

Maritime NZ continued to issue guidance in conjunction with Health New Zealand up until the early part of 2022 and while provision of guidance has now ceased, PCBUs are required to protect the Health and Safety of workers. Protections such as mask wearing, good hand hygiene and physical distancing, greatly reduce the chances of workers contracting COVID-19.

The approach outlined below should not be seen as Maritime NZ issuing guidance or Health and Safety at Work Act advice – more a common-sense approach to protecting workers and visitors from COVID-19. These steps are:

- making PPE (medical masks) available to those workers who wish to wear it when boarding foreign ships,
- developing a PCBU policy requiring PPE (masks) to be worn when it is known that crew on board a ship are COVID positive and self-isolating, but still may move about the ship undertaking essential tasks where they could come into contact with NZ workers.

3. COVID-19 maritime guidance

A guidance document has been prepared for maritime industry stakeholders, following the removal of the Maritime Border Order and a number of other Orders on 12 September 2022.

It highlights key changes made to ease current public health restrictions and a move to more voluntary measures better suited to the current outbreak context within New Zealand and can be viewed [here](#). Its aim is to provide up to date COVID-19 maritime guidance for port operators, unions, agents, government officials and PHUs, with a focus on remaining requirements under New Zealand law, and best practice where no legislative requirements exist.

The guidance can be read alongside the Vessel Management Framework, which was developed initially for vessels with confirmed or suspected COVID-19 on board, but now provides guidance for vessels with any quarantinable disease on board. Although no longer *required* for ships with COVID-19 on board, many of the templates and the guidance detailing roles and responsibilities in the Vessel Management Framework (VMF) will be useful for those managing processes around vessels with confirmed or suspected COVID-19 on board.

The VMF document can be viewed here: <https://www.customs.govt.nz/covid-19/maritime-border/>.

4. Cruise guidance

Guidance detailing the COVID-19 related regulatory requirements for the return of cruise ships was issued last week.

The guidance has been published on the Maritime New Zealand website and can be found via this link: <https://www.maritimenz.govt.nz/media/phfd5135/covid-19-requirements-cruise-return-guidelines.pdf>

The guidance has been designed to help cruise operators understand their legal requirements (i.e. the requirement for COVID-19 cases to isolate for 7 days) and related expectations, including those for household contacts and the provision of alternative accommodation for COVID-19 cases leaving ships.

Maritime NZ is providing this guidance for your information and to assist when ports and port-related businesses work with Cruise operators. It can be used in conjunction with the Vessel Management Framework and other COVID-19 related guidance to help draft Health and Safety policies and procedures.

This document also covers:

- pratique exemption for COVID-19
- health reporting requirements before arrival and while operating in New Zealand
- other key border requirements and recommendations
- the Vessel Management Framework
- Expectations and Guiding Principles for cruise operators.

The season commences on 15 October 2022 when the Majestic Princess arrives in Tauranga. We will be in touch should there be any major changes.

5. Small craft arriving in New Zealand

New Zealand's maritime border has reopened to recreational vessels, yachts and small craft.

There are no longer any COVID-19 vaccination or testing requirements to enter New Zealand by sea on any type of vessel. However, private operators may require evidence of vaccination or have other requirements to travel on board their craft.

If passengers or crew enter New Zealand, they will need to follow local COVID-19 health settings. For more information visit covid19.govt.nz.

All travellers arriving by sea must comply with standard border entry requirements, including the completion of an Advance Notice of Arrival (ANA) along with other mandatory documentation that must be completed in full and sent to Customs.

For more information visit www.customs.govt.nz/yachts.

A total of seven ports and marinas in New Zealand are able to receive recreational vessels, yachts and small craft. They are:

- Opuā
- Whangarei
- Auckland (Westhaven marina)
- Auckland Harbour Viaduct marina and Silo Park marina
- Tauranga (Vessel works precinct)
- Picton
- Lyttelton

Visit www.customs.govt.nz/yachts for more information.

6. Latest on testing when travelling to New Zealand

Anyone arriving by ship into New Zealand will not be asked to test if they don't have any COVID-19 symptoms.

However, people flying to New Zealand are encouraged to complete a Rapid Antigen Test (RAT) on day 0/1 and day 5/6 after arriving, even if they have no COVID symptoms (children under 6 months old are not asked to test).

All positive RAT results should be reported following the process below:

- If you have a National Health Index number, you can upload your positive RAT result on My Covid Record.
- If you don't have a National Health Index number, please report your positive result by calling the COVID-19 Test Results Line (8am to 8pm, 7 days a week) at:
 - 0800 432 010 — if you are using a New Zealand phone number
 - +64 9 954 6118 — if you are using an overseas phone number.

You must self-isolate for 7 days after testing positive, or after you first noticed any COVID symptoms. You are also encouraged to get a PCR test from a community testing centre or healthcare provider.

PCR tests provide valuable information about potential new variants of COVID-19 in New Zealand so please tell the person who does your test that you have recently been overseas. You can find out where to get a PCR test at www.healthpoint.co.nz/covid-19. You may leave self-isolation to get a PCR.

If you develop symptoms more than 7 days after arriving in New Zealand, please undertake another RAT. Please note that you are not required to take another PCR test at that point.

7. Key sources of information

The following links provide you with key sources of information.

Port and maritime guidelines and other information	www.maritimenz.govt.nz – click on the COVID-19 banner on the home page
Official health advice	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/