FORTH PORTS LIMITED

NtM No 06 of 2020   **11th March 2020**

NOTICE TO MARINERS

FIRTH OF FORTH

Forth Ports Marine Group: Coronavirus (COVID-19) – Guidance

There is currently a significant outbreak of a novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) affecting China and a number of other countries (See list of current risk area) which has resulted in cases across the world, as well as on cruise ships. This situation has been declared a Public Health Emergency of International Concern by the World Health Organization Emergency Committee, under the International Health Regulations.

A Maritime Declaration of Health (MDH) is required for all vessels on arrival from a foreign port.

However, in response to this emerging situation regarding COVID-19, Health Protection Scotland and the Scottish Ports Liaison Network require that information be submitted to the Scottish Port Health Authority of the ports in the table below in the following cases irrespective of whether the vessel is arriving from a foreign port or another UK port:

- Cruise Vessels
    - ALL cruise vessels

- All other vessels
    - Where anyone on board the vessel has travelled from or via any current risk area or if they have been in close contact with confirmed case of COVID-19 infection within the 14 days prior to the vessel arriving in a Scottish Port.

The information we require is the same as that required in the current MDH and should therefore allow Port Authority to establish

- Any persons unwell during the voyage and/ or on arrival, and any sanitary measures taken in response to that illness
- origin of the ship, when it left the origin port, and all ports where the vessel has docked during the 14 days prior to arrival.
- Any crew changes involving people from risk areas

We ask that the master of the vessel submit the information using the current MDH form, where possible, for convenience.

Symptoms of COVID-19 may include fever or acute respiratory infection with at least one of cough, sore throat, or shortness of breath. The Master of the ship should consider these as grounds for suspecting the existence of a disease of an infectious nature in addition to those listed on the current MDH.

Where a port operator or ship's agent receives notice that there are ill persons on a vessel then:

If the suspected case is a medical emergency, you **must** call 999 for medical assistance and you **must** inform attending services that the case has originated from a COVID-19 risk area or has had contact with a confirmed case. DO NOT disembark the patient or arrange alternative transport to a hospital until advised to do so. Also ask Forth and Tay Navigation to inform the NHS Public Health (local Health Protection Team) and the Port Health Authority (the local authorities).

If the suspected case is not seriously ill you must notify the relevant NHS Health Protection Team on (see below).   Contact details for the case must be provided with sufficient information to allow the Health Protection Team to determine follow up action. This will include symptoms, duration, contacts and travel history. DO NOT disembark the suspected case.

Further information can be found on the Health Protection Scotland and World Health Organization websites.

The Maritime Declaration of Health (MDH) should be sent electronically to FTNS (all ports/terminals) and the relevant Port Authority email address (see below).

Forth Ports	Telephone Number	Email Address	VHF Channel
FTNS	01324 498584 or 01324 498586	forth&taynavigationservice@forthports.co.uk	'Forth Navigation' 71

Ports / Terminals (Forth)	Port Health Authority Contact Details	NHS Public Health (local Health Protection Team) Contact Details
Grangemouth	Falkirk Council 01324 504982 (office hours) porthealth@falkirk.gov.uk	NHS Forth Valley 01786 457283 (office hours ask for CPHM on Call) 01324 566000 (emergency out of hours – ask for CPHM on call)
Rosyth Crombie (Royal Navy) Braefoot Bay Inverkeithing Burntisland Kirkcaldy Methil	Fife Council 01592 583228 (office hours) food.advice@fife.gov.uk	NHS Fife 01592 226435 (office hours) 01592 643355 (emergency out of hours – ask for CPHM on call)
Leith Granton Newhaven Hound Point South Queensferry	City of Edinburgh Council 0131 469 5751/5794/5934 (office hours) 0131 200 2000 (out with office hours) environmentalhealth@edinburgh.gov.uk	NHS Lothian 0131 465 5420/5422 (office hours) 0131 242 1000 Edinburgh Royal Infirmary switchboard (emergency out of hours – ask for CPHM on call)

Further Information:

Health Protection Scotland

https://www.hps.scot.nhs.uk/a-to-z-of-topics/wuhan-novel-coronavirus/

https://www.hps.scot.nhs.uk/web-resources-container/covid-19-risk-areas/

World Health Organization

https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019

Status of Previously Published Notices:

Nos 10, 24, 42, 45, 46 and 47 of 2019 remain in force

Nos 04 and 05 of 2020 remain in force.

ALAN McPHERSON
Chief Harbour Master