

FORTH PORTS LIMITED

NtM No 21 of 2020

08th June 2020

NOTICE TO MARINERS

FIRTH OF FORTH

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

There is currently a pandemic of a novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) which is affecting the UK among other countries. 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 situation regarding COVID-19, Public Health 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 the vessel¹ or whether it is arriving from a foreign port or another UK port:

- Any vessel which has visited another port in the past 14 days; and/or
- Any vessel that has had a (personnel or location) crew change in the past 14 days; and/or
- Any vessel that has had a suspect/confirmed case in the past 14 days

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

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

Symptoms of COVID-19 may include fever, cough or chest tightness, loss or change to your sense of smell or taste, muscle pain, fatigue and breathing difficulty. The Master of the ship should consider any of 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:

¹ Using the scope of the [Common European Reporting System](#), reporting requirement this current Notice to Mariners applies to the following vessels (excepting vessels providing domestic ferry services):

- Ships of 300 Gross Tonnage and upwards;
- Fishing vessels, traditional ships and recreational craft, where the length of the fishing vessel, traditional ship, or recreational craft is 45 metres and above; and
- All ships engaged on international voyages

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 had contact with a confirmed COVID-19 case. DO NOT disembark the patient or arrange alternative transport to a hospital until advised to do so. DO NOT disembark any other crew or passengers. Also ask the Harbour Master 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 list 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 [Scottish Government](#), [Public Health Scotland](#) and [World Health Organization](#) websites.

The following are the contact details for submitting your Maritime Declaration of Health:

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

Ports / Terminals	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:

Public Health Scotland

<https://publichealthscotland.scot/>

<https://www.hps.scot.nhs.uk/a-to-z-of-topics/covid-19/>

[https://www.hps.scot.nhs.uk/web-resources-container/covid-19-guidance-for-non-healthcare-settings/Maritime section \(Pages 24 to 26\)](https://www.hps.scot.nhs.uk/web-resources-container/covid-19-guidance-for-non-healthcare-settings/Maritime%20section%20(Pages%2024%20to%2026))

World Health Organization

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

Public Health England

<http://www.porthealthassociation.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/200519-Covid-in-the-maritime-setting-QAs-v5-19-May-2020.pdf> (NOTE: Public Health Scotland notes that this document, while not formally adopted, provides practical guidance for use in Scotland). The FAQs further interpret UK Government guidance on COVID-19 for the maritime sector)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-shipping-and-sea-ports-guidance/guidance-for-shipping-and-sea-ports-on-coronavirus-covid-19#what-you-need-to-know>

Association of Port Health Authorities

<http://www.porthealthassociation.co.uk/shared/covid-19-guidance/> (COVID-19 Resources for Port Health Officers – updated daily)

Status of Previously Published Notices:

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

Nos 04, 07, 14 and 20 of 2020 remain in force.

Scott Cameron

Marine Manager