



Local Notice to Mariners No 6 of 2021

Maritime Declaration of Health and Port Health Authority

This Local notice to mariners is promulgated on behalf of the Port Health Authority Aberdeen City Council.

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, 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 the vessel or whether it is arriving from a foreign port or another UK port:

- Any vessel that has visited another port in the past 14 days
- Any vessel that has had a crew change in the past 14 days
- Any vessel that has had a suspect/confirmed case in the past 14 days

The information required 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

Masters are required to submit the information electronically using the appendix MDH form, where possible, for convenience.

Symptoms of COVID-19 may include fever, cough or chest tightness, 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:

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 overleaf). 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](#), [Health Protection Scotland](#) and [World Health Organization](#) websites.

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

Ports / Terminals	
Port Health Authority Contact Details	porthealthaberdeen@aberdeencity.gov.uk TEL: 03000 200 292
NHS Public Health (local Health Protection Team) Contact Details	grampian.healthprotection@nhs.net TEL: 01224 558520

Port Authority Aberdeen Harbour Board	vts@aberdeen-harbour.co.uk TEL: 01224 597000 VHF Ch: 12
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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-guidance-for-non-healthcare-settings/> Maritime section

World Health Organization

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

Public Health England

https://mcusercontent.com/5bd14121853a19a64a8a47c66/files/d6cd1686-9dcc-40a6-a605-02bf40990e19/200421Covid_in_the_maritime_setting_QAs_V_2.pdf

<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>

Issued by

Alex McIntosh

Harbour Master

29/12/2020

On behalf of Port Health Authority Aberdeen City Council