**Notice to Mariners Template (V4.0: 04-06-2020)**

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 vessel[[1]](#footnote-1) 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:

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](https://www.gov.scot/coronavirus-covid-19/), [Public Health Scotland](https://publichealthscotland.scot/our-areas-of-work/sharing-our-data-and-intelligence/coronavirus-covid-19-data/) and [World Health Organization](https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019) websites.

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

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Ports / Terminals | Port Health Authority Contact Details | NHS Public Health (local Health Protection Team) Contact Details |
|  |  |  |

Radio Channel for Harbourmaster (To be completed locally):

**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/%20Maritime%20section%20%28Pages%2024%20to%2026%29)

**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](http://www.porthealthassociation.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/200519-Covid-in-the-maritime-setting-QAs-v5-19-May-2020.pdf%20) (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)

**Explanatory Note for COVID-19 MDH and Information to Mariners Notice (v3.0)**

As well as submitting a health declaration there are several obligatory and legal reporting requirements that must be fulfilled by Masters when arriving in UK ports. The Consolidated European Reporting System (CERS) Workbook is used by Masters, shipping agents and port authorities to provide mandatory port call, dangerous and polluting goods (hazmat) information, waste information and security information to the Maritime and Coastguard Agency.

The CERS workbook is a collection of various forms that are required under UK and European Law to be submitted by all commercial vessels over 300 GRT, recreational, traditional or fishing vessels of 45 metres in length and over. You may have been emailed a copy of this Microsoft Excel format CERS workbook in addition to the Maritime Declaration of Health from a vessel arriving in your port.

This explanatory note is provided to make it clearer as to what vessels are required to submit a MDH. Smaller vessels i.e .those out of scope from CERS, are not normally required to or used to submitting such pre-arrival detail including a MDH.

Using the scope of the CERS reporting requirement this current NtM 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

which have:

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

This explanatory note is intended for harbourmasters, harbour managers, shipping agents and port health officers.

1. Using the scope of the [Common European Reporting System](http://d80a69bd923ff4dc0677-b849429a75dd6216be63404a232a877c.r8.cf3.rackcdn.com/A_guide_to_the_new_CERS3_reporting_process.pdf)  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 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)