



THE BRISTOL PORT COMPANY

NOTICE TO MARINERS (No. 12 of 2020)

BRISTOL PORT COMPANY - PILOT EMBARKATION PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES

Following the outbreak of the coronavirus COVID-19, the UK Department for Transport, in consultation with Public Health England, has issued updates on the spread of the virus and guidelines ([UK Gov Guidance for shipping and sea ports on coronavirus\(COVID-19\)](#)) for the steps necessary to prevent the spread of the virus. Further useful advice for ship operators can be found at [Advice for ship operators for preparedness and response to the outbreak of COVID-19](#).

In support of those guidelines, the Bristol Port Company has instigated as the Competent Harbour Authority the following Pilot Embarkation Precautionary Measures for the embarkation of pilots and subsequent vessel transit. These Pilot Embarkation Precautionary Measures should be implemented by all vessels that do not have on board any suspected cases of COVID-19.

Responsibility for carrying out the following Pilot Embarkation Precautionary Measures rests with the vessel's Master assisted by the shipowner and local ship agent as appropriate.

Pilot Embarkation Precautionary Measures

- All vessels must have submitted the required Maritime Declaration of Health to the local Port Heath Authority.
- Immediately prior to pilot embarkation, all surfaces and equipment in the wheelhouse, including on the bridge wings, that the pilot may touch must be cleaned with a suitable cleaning solution.
- All crew at the embarkation point (either pilot ladder or accommodation ladder etc.) must wear suitable PPE.
- The crew member assigned to escort the pilot from the embarkation point to the wheelhouse must wear suitable PPE.
- Where possible, the route from the embarkation point to the wheelhouse should be via the open deck, as opposed to within enclosed spaces, and be clear of accommodation ventilation unit exhausts.
- As far as it would not prejudice the normal operation of the vessel, non-essential crew and passengers should be kept clear of the route from the embarkation point to the wheelhouse for at least one hour prior to and during pilot embarkation, especially where the route passes through enclosed spaces.

- The wheelhouse, where possible, should remain well ventilated via the opening of external doors or windows. If this is not practicable, owing to the design of the vessel, its systems or the prevailing conditions, ventilation units should be adjusted to supply outside air and air recirculation should not take place.
- The wheelhouse must be cleared of all crew not essential to the navigation of the vessel, and all crew members present must wear appropriate PPE.
- Unless necessary for the safety of the pilot (e.g. during the embarkation process), crew or vessel, the pilot and crew should remain at least 2 metres apart.
- The pilot will not sign documentation; a crew member recording the pilot's name on the relevant documentation, in lieu of the pilot's signature, must suffice. The pilot will apply a corresponding procedure for the master's signature on the pilot's passage plan.
- Similar precautions must be taken during disembarkation of the pilot either ashore or to the pilot launch.

If a vessel is unable to comply with any of the Pilot Embarkation Precautionary Measures, the master must advise Bristol Pilots (VHF Ch.06) without delay (and in advance of the pilot embarkation), and this information will be relayed to the pilot prior to their arrival at the vessel.

Failure to comply with the Pilot Embarkation Precautionary Measures may result in pilot embarkation being delayed or cancelled.

If a report of a suspected case of COVID-19 on board a vessel is received, the pilot embarkation will be cancelled pending the receipt of specific guidance on the matter from the Port Health Authority.

Furthermore, masters of vessels are advised that if the pilot assigned to the vessel reports at any time prior to embarkation they have any symptoms of COVID-19, reasonable endeavours will be made to assign a replacement pilot to the vessel for the planned embarkation time. However, depending upon the timing of the advice and the prevailing demand for pilots, a replacement pilot may not be available; in which case, the pilotage order will be cancelled, and the local agent will be required to resubmit the pilotage order for a later time.

This Notice may be amended at any time as revised guidance regarding the COVID-19 pandemic is issued by the relevant authorities.

UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE, ships crews are NOT PERMITTED TO LEAVE THEIR VESSELS whilst in the Port of Bristol without express permission from the Haven Master or his delegated Deputy.

Notice to Mariners No.10 of 2020 is hereby cancelled.

Jerry Stanford
Haven Master and Marine Director

Marine Department
Avonmouth Docks

6th April 2020

OWNERS, AGENTS AND CHARTERERS SHOULD ENSURE THAT THE CONTENTS OF THIS NOTICE BE MADE KNOWN TO THE MASTERS OR PERSONS IN CHARGE OF THEIR VESSELS OR CRAFT.