



THE BRISTOL PORT COMPANY

NOTICE TO MARINERS (No. 14 of 2021)

COVID-19 CONTROL MEASURES

for

PILOT EMBARKATION & CREW SHORE LEAVE

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](#).

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.

In support of those guidelines, the Bristol Port Company has instigated as the Competent Harbour Authority Pilot Embarkation and Crew Shore Leave Measures:

(i) 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, every attempt 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.

(ii) Crew Shore Leave Measures

In accordance with UK Government advice for seafarers, Crew Shore Leave remains restricted. The reference can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-travellers-exempt-from-uk-border-rules/coronavirus-covid-19-travellers-exempt-from-uk-border-rules#seamen-and-masters-and-inspectors-and-surveyors-of-ships>)

By way of summary, the following are the key points:

1. Crew changes may take place as normal.
2. Seafarers normally resident in the UK may isolate at their home address.
3. All other seafarers should remain on the vessel on which they arrived.
4. Visits to local facilities are not permitted and this will also include visits to the Seafarers Mission at RPD, unless points 5 and 6 below apply.
5. A vessel that has been at sea for more than 10 clear days will have met the quarantine rules and Crew Shore Leave may be permitted.
6. Vessels that do not leave UK waters are not impacted by the Covid Regulations, and crews should conform to national Covid-19 Guidance.

Notice to Mariners No.12 of 2020 is hereby cancelled.

Jerry Stanford
Haven Master and Marine Director

Marine Department
Avonmouth Docks

29th April 2021

**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.**