



Coronavirus (COVID-19) industry update

Information for the maritime industry within Victoria

- From 11.59pm AEDT 28 March 2020, all travellers arriving from overseas at Victorian airports or disembarking at maritime ports are subject to a Direction and Detention Notice (No 4), which mandates compulsory quarantine at designated hotels in the port of arrival for 14 days from the day of disembarkation.
- This factsheet provides details of the current policy measures in place at Victorian seaports that apply to maritime crew, to provide clarity and support compliance.

Maritime crew who live in Victoria or elsewhere in Australia arriving into Victoria on vessels from international waters

If maritime crew are transiting interstate or returning to their residence in Victoria, they must go into mandatory hotel quarantine for 14 days from disembarkation before being allowed to travel to their usual residence in Victoria, or interstate (unless granted a specific exemption as outlined below).

Maritime crew arriving into Victoria from overseas on an international flight planning to board a maritime vessel in Victoria

Maritime crew joining a maritime vessel in Victoria must go into mandatory quarantine for 14 days from arrival, unless:

- they are granted a specific exemption from the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS); or
- they are boarding a maritime vessel at a Victorian port directly from an international flight, **and** the time between boarding the vessel and the vessel departing the Victorian port for an international port is no more than 48 hours. Crew members must use privately organised transport and follow appropriate physical distancing measures while transiting from the airport to the maritime vessel.

Maritime crew who are leaving the vessel in Victoria to board an international flight

Maritime crew will be allowed to transit from their ship to an international flight if:

- the flight is leaving the same day and they travel directly to the airport using privately organised transport following appropriate physical distancing measures. Otherwise, the crew member must self-isolate in their hotel for up to 24 hours then travel directly to the airport to take their flight.
 - Hotels should follow current DHHS guidance on cleaning procedures; see [Cleaning and disinfecting to reduce coronavirus \(COVID-19\) transmission](https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/cleaning-and-disinfecting-to-reduce-coronavirus-(COVID-19)-transmission). <https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/cleaning-and-disinfecting-to-reduce-covid-19-transmission>

If there is more than 24 hours until the flight, they must stay in mandatory hotel quarantine until the flight, or for 14 days, whichever is shorter.

Maritime crew arriving on an international vessel (“the old vessel”) and planning to leave Victoria on another vessel that is departing for an international port (“the new vessel”)

Maritime crew **are not** subject to mandatory hotel quarantine in the following situations:

- If they are boarding the new vessel directly after disembarking the old vessel, and the time between boarding the vessel and the vessel departing the Victorian port for an international port is no more than 48 hours. The crew member must use privately organised transport and follow appropriate physical distancing measures while transiting between the vessels.
- If the time from disembarking the old vessel and joining the new vessel is no more than 24 hours and the time between boarding the new vessel and the vessel departing the Victorian port for an international port is no more than 48 hours. In this case, the crew member must self-isolate in their accommodation (organised by their shipping company) for the layover period and travel directly to the port to join the new vessel. The crew member must use privately organised transport and follow appropriate physical distancing measures while transiting to and from the vessels and their accommodation.

If the above situations do not apply, the crew member must go into mandatory hotel quarantine until the time the new vessel leaves, or for 14 days, whichever is shorter, as long as the crew member travels directly from the quarantine hotel to the vessel within 24 hours of planned departure.

Where a vessel has left an Australian port, travelled into international waters, and then arrived back into a Victorian port (for example, a surveying vessel)

The crew **do not** need to enter mandatory hotel quarantine or go into self-isolation on disembarkation if:

- all maritime crew aboard (who travelled from overseas to join the vessel in Australia) completed 14 days of mandatory hotel quarantine in Australia prior to joining the vessel
- no further crew have joined the vessel during its voyage
- the vessel did not dock at a foreign port during its voyage; and
- there is no reported illness that could potentially indicate coronavirus (COVID-19) infection on board the vessel.

Maritime crew arriving into Victoria on vessels that have only been in Australian waters

Maritime crew disembarking from these vessels **do not** need to enter mandatory hotel quarantine or self-isolation on arrival into a Victorian port if:

- the vessel has not left Australian waters
- the vessel has only taken on maritime crew who have done 14 days mandatory hotel quarantine on arrival into Australia prior to boarding the vessel (and are able to verify this with documentation); and
- there is no reported illness that could potentially indicate coronavirus (COVID-19) infection on board the vessel.

Note that crew who then travel interstate may be subject to separate, state-based quarantine or self-isolation requirements on arrival.

Crew requiring medical attention (for non-coronavirus or other listed human disease-related illness) who would not otherwise be disembarking in Victoria

A crew member may be granted approval to disembark a maritime vessel at a Victorian port without having to go into mandatory hotel quarantine if:

- they are coming off the vessel for the sole purpose of seeking medical review for a non-coronavirus (COVID-19) related medical complaint and have also been given clearance by Australia Border Force (ABF) and Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (DAWE) to do so
- the crew member wears a surgical mask, and travels directly to the medical facility in private transport, maintaining physical distancing between the crew member and the driver

- the crew member or operator of the vessel notifies the driver of the transport and medical facility prior to their arrival that the crew member is coming off an international maritime vessel and has not completed 14 days mandatory hotel quarantine
- Following medical review, (if deemed well enough to not need hospital admission) the crew member travels directly back to the vessel in the same manner as they travelled to the health facility.

Shore-based professionals performing work on a vessel in Victorian ports

Shore-based professionals (such as pilots, stevedores, Vessels Agents, surveyors, fumigators, shipper/receiver representative) can come on board the vessel to carry out essential vessel functions, provided necessary precautions have been put in place on the vessel.

Crew on board must use personal protective equipment (PPE) in public spaces on the vessel while non-crew members are on-board or whilst interacting with non-crew members. It is the requirement of the employer or vessel to provide adequate PPE for their workers.

Shore-based professionals should:

- wash their hands frequently while on board the vessel with soap and water or use alcohol-based hand sanitiser
- wear appropriate PPE (surgical masks) while on board a vessel
- avoid touching their mouth, eyes, and nose with unwashed or gloved hands.
- Where possible, stay 1.5 metres or more away from crew and limit interactions with persons on board the vessel to essential crew. Spend the minimum amount of time required in order to perform their function on the vessel and minimise time spent interacting with the crew.
- Shore based professionals should not sleep or stay overnight on the vessel whilst undertaking their functions.

If a shore-based professional becomes aware of any ill person on board, they should contact their local port authority and public health authority and ask the vessel master to report the illness via MARS. The ill crew member or passenger should isolate on the vessel in a single cabin until further direction is given by a biosecurity officer or human biosecurity officer.

If the above measures are not adhered to by shore-based professionals boarding a vessel, they will be required to self-isolate for 14 days from the time of disembarkation from the vessel.

Shore-based staff who do not board the vessel but may interact with crew from the vessel (e.g. stevedores) should maintain appropriate physical distancing measures but PPE is not currently advised.

International crew performing shore-based activities

All crew must remain on-board while the vessel is berthed in Victoria, with the exception of conducting brief essential docking, security and maintenance tasks.

Only the minimum necessary number of staff should be used to perform these tasks and interactions with shore-based professionals must be kept to a minimum. Where interaction is required, a distance of 1.5 metres should be kept between crew and shore-based professionals.

While in port, crew must stay in the accommodation areas of the vessel unless performing vessel critical functions. Where crew leave accommodation to perform vessel critical functions, they must

- wash their hands frequently while on board the vessel with soap and water or use alcohol-based hand sanitiser
- wear appropriate PPE while on board a vessel
- avoid touching their mouth, eyes, and nose with their hands

- where possible, maintain 1.5 metres physical distance from crew and limit interactions with persons on board the vessel to essential crew.

If the above measures, are not adhered to by vessel crew, the vessel may be required to quarantine for a further 14 days.

Crew who are leaving the vessel to conduct essential shore-based activities must wear PPE.

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Authorised and published by the Victorian Government, 1 Treasury Place, Melbourne.

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Available at the [Department of Health and Human Services coronavirus \(COVID-19\) website](https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus) <<https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus>>