

Notice to Mariners

Coronavirus (Covid 19)

There is currently a significant outbreak 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.

However, in response to this emerging 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 whether the vessel 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 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 using the current MDH form, where possible, for convenience.

Symptoms of COVID-19 may include fever or acute respiratory infection with at least one of cough, sore throat, or shortness of breath. The Master of the ship should consider 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 originated from a COVID-19 risk area or has had contact with a confirmed case. DO NOT disembark the patient or arrange alternative transport to a hospital until advised to do so. Also ask the Marine Radio 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](#), [Health Protection Scotland](#) and [World Health Organization](#) websites. The following are the contact details for submitting your Maritime Declaration of Health:

Port/Terminals	Port Health Authority Contact Details	NHS Public Health (local Health Protection Team) Contact Details
Cromarty Firth Port Authority (Port of Cromarty Firth), Invergordon	07879604338	01463 704000 (ask for public health team)

Radio Channel for Cromarty Port Radio: Call “*Cromarty Firth Port Radio*” on Channels 11 or 16.

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](https://www.hps.scot.nhs.uk/web-resources-container/covid-19-guidance-for-non-healthcare-settings/Maritime%20section)

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://mcusercontent.com/5bd14121853a19a64a8a47c66/files/d6cd1686-9dcc-40a6-a605-02bf40990e19/200421Covid%20in%20the%20maritime%20setting%20QAs%20V%202.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>