

COVID-19 Maritime Industry Update 111

8 August 2022

This guideline is for the maritime industry and port supply chain



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Last updated: 8 August 2022

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1. Maritime border reopening update

New Zealand's maritime border is now open to all vessels and to travellers from anywhere in the world.

In March 2020 the maritime border closed to all but trade and commercial sea traffic. It's been a challenging few years for everyone in the industry as we navigated the COVID-19 restrictions at the border and then readied the industry to welcome back all vessels.

A big thank you to everyone who changed their way of working and their home routines, to help keep us all safe. Testing, vaccination and PPE requirements have all placed some level of strain on the day to day lives of border and port workers, but these efforts have been rewarded with very few cases coming through the maritime border.

Now the focus turns to readying industry and communities for the return of cruise vessels. The first cruise arrives for a one day stop in Auckland this Friday (12 August) with the regular return of cruise vessels from early October. Cruise passengers must ensure they meet vaccination requirements for entry outlined on the ['Unite against COVID-19'](#) website.

The [NZ Customs](#) website outlines the obligations ship's masters and operators need to fulfil when planning a journey to New Zealand, including skippers of recreational vessels, yachts and small craft sailing to New Zealand.

In the last edition of the Maritime Industry Update we outlined that arriving vessels will fall into one of two categories:

- **Category 1** includes passengers and crew on all vessels associated with trade as well as specialist vessels and foreign state vessels with diplomatic status. Arrivals that fall into Category 1 do not need to be vaccinated but will be subject to 'on arrival' testing to disembark.
- **Category 2** includes passengers and crew on a cruise ship, recreational vessel or yacht. Anyone that falls into Category 2 will need to be fully vaccinated (or be excused or exempt) before they arrive but there will be no requirement to test on arrival.

More information on ship's categories and the updated Maritime Border Order can be found on the [Ministry of Health's](#) and [Maritime NZ's](#) websites.

There will be more information to follow in the weeks and months ahead, in particular as we approach the October cruise season.

The Maritime Industry Update is issued monthly. However, publication days might change when there is a need to provide a quick update.

If you have any questions about updates, or suggestions for what you would like included, please contact Maritime NZ by emailing MNZCovid-19@maritimenz.govt.nz.

2. Testing for Category 1 (commercial) arrivals

Crew and passengers (if any), on board Category 1 vessels coming to New Zealand will need to test negative for COVID-19 in order to disembark (except to perform essential tasks).

The ship's master will advise everyone on board of their testing obligations and anyone who tests positive will need to isolate on board along with everyone else on the vessel, who will be considered 'household contacts'.

RAT kits will be provided to crew before they disembark (day 0/1) so a test can be taken in order to leave the ship and enter the community. However this does not impact the undertaking of essential tasks within the immediate vicinity of the ship such as unloading cargo, which can go ahead without the need to test.

If the crew member remains in the community or is planning to disembark the ship more than 120 hours after their first test, they will be required to take a second test (a Day 5/6 test). The Day 5/6 test must be taken between 120-140 hours after the first test and can be taken while in the community or on board.

The result of any test taken must be reported to the ship's master, who is then required to report COVID-19 test results whether positive or negative, to the relevant Medical Officer of Health.

Visit the [Ministry of Health's](#) website for more information about health requirements including testing and reporting of results.

3. The maritime Industry Update will now be sent monthly

With the maritime border now open we are in a position where we can reduce the frequency of these updates to monthly.

We will send through important updates in email format as needed and we can reinstate fortnightly, or even weekly updates if the situation calls for it.

It has been good to get feedback from the industry that these updates have been helpful and we trust that you will continue to find them useful.

4. Maritime NZ web guidance

Over the last 2 years Maritime NZ, in partnership with other border agencies, have been publishing guidance for port and border workers to follow.

Guidance ranged from the wearing of PPE on the ports and when unloading cargo through to the management of crew changes for replacement crew. In some cases it was translated into multiple languages.

Following the recent changes to the Maritime Border Order (MBO), the last two guidance documents on our website have been removed and archived. They are:

1. Guidance for NZ PCBUs and their workers aboard affected ships
2. Managing COVID-19 risks on international vessels during pilotage.

The archiving of these documents reflects that many of the duties, obligations and responsibilities discussed in those documents are no longer required under COVID-19 legislation. However some requirements remain such as the need to continue wearing medical grade masks when interacting with members of the public, which is a requirement under the COVID-19 Protection Framework.

We do recognise that much of the material in these two guidance documents may still be of interest, and may continue to be used. If you would like copies of these, please email us on MNZCovid-19@maritimenz.govt.nz requesting the document you would like and we will send it to you.

For more information on managing COVID-19 as a health and safety risk under HSWA please see the WorkSafe, MNZ and MBIE websites below:

- [Health and Safety - Maritime NZ](#) (MNZ)
- [Novel coronavirus \(COVID-19\) | WorkSafe](#) (WorkSafe)
- [Employment New Zealand](#) (MBIE)

5. Answering your questions

There are a huge number of stakeholders in the maritime industry and ports' supply chain, and all of you are affected in different ways by COVID-19 and New Zealand's response to it.

If you have questions you would like answered, please email MNZCovid-19@maritimenz.govt.nz by 5pm, Friday each week.

6. Key sources of information

The following links provide you with key sources of information.

For all your questions, and to provide information and make suggestions – email Maritime NZ	MNZCovid-19@maritimenz.govt.nz
Port and maritime guidelines and other information	www.maritimenz.govt.nz – click on the COVID-19 banner on the home page
Official health advice, including testing – Ministry of Health	www.health.govt.nz/
Up-to-date information across the transport sector (land, sea and air) – Ministry of Transport	www.transport.govt.nz/about/covid-19/
All New Zealand COVID-19 legislation	www.pco.govt.nz/covid-19-legislation/