



Public Health England

Protecting and improving the nation's health

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Sent by email: morris.ukmpa@gmail.com

Dear Mr Morris

Pilotage with confirmed case Covid-19

Thank you for your letter of 31 March regarding the act of pilotage during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

Social distancing measures should be maintained as much as possible during the act of pilotage. If a distance of at least two metres (three steps) between individuals cannot be maintained while manning pilot boats, and a business considers the work is essential, staff should work side by side, or facing away from each other, rather than face to face if possible. Where you are able keep teams of workers together and keep teams as small as possible. This will minimise risks of transmission across the whole workforce.

In the same way, Pilots should ensure that contact with crew is kept to the minimum allowable for safe working. Non-essential crew members should not be allowed on the Bridge when the Pilots are on board, and Pilots should only be in areas of the ship essential for their work.

Pilots should wash their hands using soap and water for 20 seconds, regularly and particularly after blowing their nose, sneezing or coughing, and when leaving the ship. Where facilities to wash hands are not available, hand sanitiser should be used, and they should carry this with them at all times.

Pilots should cover any coughs or sneezes with a tissue, then throw the tissue in a bin. They should avoid touching any surfaces or objects other than those that are required to undertake their work. They should not touch or shake hands with the crew, and they should avoid touching their eyes, nose, or mouth.

Published guidance on shipping and sea ports sets out what actions to take if you have a person with confirmed COVID-19 in a marine setting. Whilst at sea, all confirmed cases and symptomatic crew should be self-isolating in their cabins, in line with the guidance for households with possible COVID-19 infection. Advice on good hand and respiratory hygiene practices should be followed at all times. There is no requirement for Pilots to self-isolate after piloting a vessel with a confirmed or symptomatic case on board.

If any Pilot develops symptoms of COVID-19 (a new, continuous cough and/or a high temperature), they should self-isolate at home for seven days, which is the same guidance that applies to the general population.

Public Health England (PHE) does not recommend the use of personal protective equipment outside clinical settings, beyond that already required for normal operational purposes.

We have issued guidance for cleaning and waste disposal in non-healthcare settings. The guidance describes the cleaning required, the appropriate disposal of materials, the cleaning of equipment and hard surfaces, and the PPE that should be worn.

I hope you have found this response helpful.

With best wishes

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Duncan Selbie". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'D'.

Duncan Selbie
Chief Executive

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