



Notice to Mariners

There is currently a significant outbreak of a novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) affecting China and a number of other countries (See list of current risk areaⁱ) which has resulted in cases across the world, as well as on cruise ships. 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 from a foreign port.

However, in response to this emerging situation regarding COVID-19, Health Protection Scotland and the Scottish Ports Liaison Network request 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:

- Cruise Vessels
 - ALL cruise vessels
- Container and Cargo Vessels
 - where anyone on board the vessel has travelled from or via any current risk area or if they have been in close contact with confirmed case of COVID-19 infection within the 14 days prior to the vessel arriving in a Scottish Port.

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 involving people from risk areas

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 Harbour Master 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 [Health Protection Scotland](#) and [World Health Organization](#) websites.

The following are the contact details for submitting your Maritime Declaration of Health:

Port/Location	Telephone Number	Email Address
Peterhead Port Authority Harbour Office West Pier Peterhead AB42 1DW	01779 483600	info@peterheadport.co.uk
Fraserburgh Harbour Commissioners Shore Street Fraserburgh AB43 9BR	01346 515858	enquiries@fraserburgh-harbour.co.uk
Macduff Harbour Board Harbour Office 32 Shore Street Macduff AB44 1TX	01261 832236	duncan.mackie@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

Radio Channel for Harbourmaster: To be completed locally

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/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-risk-areas/>

World Health Organization

<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>

ⁱ In the event of any changes to risk areas this link will be updated