

June 30, 2020

COMMUNITY NOTICE

NEW MARITIME BORDER REQUIREMENTS

The Government has now issued a new Order under the COVID-19 Public Health Response Act, placing new restrictions on border control at the maritime border. The rules around shore leave for crew of foreign vessels is set by the Ministry of Health and Maritime New Zealand.

Under the new requirements, for crew to disembark from vessels for shore leave, they must have been at sea for at least 28 days or have completed 14 days isolation after the vessel arrived in New Zealand waters. Further criteria and approvals are then required before shore leave can occur – please see below, or further details at

<https://www.health.govt.nz/system/files/documents/pages/border-advisory-26june20.pdf> .

All inbound vessels, and vessels using the Dry Dock, are required to complete an LPC COVID-19 Advance Notice Form and return it to LPC's Marine Pilots a minimum of 12 hours before arrival. That form identifies the previous ports the vessel has visited, the health of the crew and whether any crew have joined the vessel at previous ports and outlines the key hygiene and PPE steps required prior to entry. Our Pilots have the opportunity to review this information before boarding and are provided with health confirmation before boarding.

That form is reviewed by LPC and the CDHB Public Health Unit, and if appropriate authorisation to berth is given.

Increased border controls

It is critically important that we all work together to protect New Zealanders from COVID-19 and play our part in the global effort to contain it. From today, the following border controls are in place:

1. **For all international vessels arriving after 23:59 on June 30, shore leave for vessel crews is prohibited unless they have remained in isolation for 14 days after arriving in New Zealand waters.** Vessels can be exempted this requirement if the following criteria are met:
 - the ship has been at sea for at least **28 consecutive days** AND
 - during that time no person has had contact with any other persons other than those people who were on board the ship when it most recently departed AND
 - Customs and Excise Act 2018 requirements have been adhered to AND
 - **the medical officer of health or health protection officer is reasonably satisfied that no persons on board have displayed symptoms of COVID-19.**
2. Crew may leave the vessel to complete essential tasks close to the vessel (for example maintenance, safety checks or rigging gangways), or to receive medical

assistance or legal representation. Crew must wear PPE and maintain safe distancing.

We're working with the Seafarers' Centre and shipping agents to ensure that the welfare of seafarers is looked after. Our Pilots have been distributing material from the Seafarers' Centre to the vessels on welfare issues and the services that are available to them from the Centre.

For many crews they have been at sea for some time now as a result of the COVID-19, and it is important that they have access to the essential services and contact with families that they require.