

MSQ VTS Direction 11/2020

COVID-19 Threat – vessels inbound QLD Ports

Issued 18 March 2020

Background

In light of Australia's escalated response to the current threat of the Covid-19, I have directed that Maritime Safety Queensland (MSQ) continue to adopt a proactive stance in managing the risks associated with incoming shipping to Queensland's ports.

Direction

This direction applies to the masters of all ships in Queensland waters intending to enter a Queensland pilotage area if:

- **the ship left, or transited through a port in mainland China or South Korea (both of which are a relevant country) in the last 14 days, or**
- **the ship intends to enter a Queensland Compulsory pilotage area.**
- **the ship left, or transited through a port outside Australian Territorial Waters after 2359 hours Australian Standard Time on 15 March 2020, or**
- **any crew or other person on board (a relevant person) has travelled to or transited through a country outside Australia after 2359 hours Australian Standard Time on 15 March 2020**

The ship must not enter a Queensland pilotage area until 14 days have elapsed since the ship's departure from mainland China or south Korea or if the ship or persons on board has travelled or transited through a country outside of Australia after 2359 on 15 March.

Effective immediately, Queensland's Vessel Traffic Services (VTS) will require all foreign trading ships that are inbound to Queensland Port Pilotage areas to provide the following information until further notice:

- 1) **Report whether the vessel has transited through or departed a port in Mainland China, South Korea in the past 14 days or any other port outside Australian Territorial Waters after 2359 hours Australian Standard Time on 15 March 2020**
- 2) **Report if any crew or other person on board (a relevant person) has travelled to or transited through Mainland China or South Korea in the last 14 days. Additionally, any crew or other person has transited any other foreign country after 2359 hours Australian Standard Time on 15 March 2020**

3) Report if any Crew Member or passenger is showing any of the Novel Coronavirus symptoms that include fever, flu-like symptoms cough, sore throat, headache or difficulty breathing.

If the answer is **NO** to Questions 1, 2 and 3, MSQ will then inform all parties including Marine Pilots, and ships agent of the clear declaration. Vessel can proceed as scheduled.

If the answer is **YES** to Questions 1, 2 or 3:

The vessel is **NOT** to enter a Queensland Compulsory Pilotage Area nor embark a Marine Pilot until 14 days since departing or transiting through mainland China or South Korea. Additionally, vessels are **NOT** to enter a Queensland Compulsory Pilotage Area nor embark a Marine Pilot until 14 days since departing or transiting and any other **port outside Australian Territorial Waters after 2359 hours Australian Standard Time on 15 March 2020** has elapsed.

Question 3 is to be repeated to the vessel on its call into VTS after the 14 days has elapsed.

The 14-day quarantine period will commence at pilot away time in China or South Korea. Additionally, for vessels departing other international **ports at Pilot away time** after 2359 hours Australian Standard Time on 15 March 2020. This will be the last time the crew of a vessel will have interacted with a person from either Mainland China or South Korea and for other countries after 2359 Australian standard Time on 15 March 2020.

To calculate the time in which an Australian pilot can board a vessel, add 2 hrs to the pilot away time for vessels departing China (+0800 UTC) or 1 hour for those departing South Korea (+0900 UTC) and then add 14 days.

*(For example, if the Pilot away time in China is 1000 11/2020 (+0800 UTC),
the earliest Australian Pilot Boarding time will be 1200 25/2020 (+1000 UTC))*

If the answer is **YES** to question 3, VTS is to advise the RHM immediately and follow any instructions given. MSQ will make the appropriate notifications to State and Federal agencies for further advice. The vessel is **NOT** to enter a Queensland Compulsory Pilotage Area nor embark a Marine Pilot and be directed to remain outside of the Compulsory Pilotage Area until assessed and cleared by appropriate government qualified personnel.

If in the event a ship is non-compliant by not providing answers to the questions, the ship is to be directed to remain outside the VTS area or port limits until such time as the above questions have been answered.

VTS is to record the number of ships vetted with identifying the result of the questioning. A report from each VTS centre is to be provided to Townsville VTS centre every 24 hours at 1600 daily. Townsville VTS is to submit collated reports to the General Manager MSQ by 1630 daily.

If in the event a member of the public or boating community contacts VTS regarding any response from a ship they are to respond with "MSQ will make the appropriate notifications to State and Federal

agencies for further advice".

These precautionary measures are consistent with Queensland Health's posture on the need to minimise risk across the state. Queensland's Regional Harbour Masters can be contacted for further advice or information as required.

This direction is subject to change based on advice provided by the Australian Department of Health This direction will remain in effect until further notice.