

14 AUGUST 2020

# Harbour Master Instruction

**Number:** 05/2020 **Date:** 14 August 2020  
**Date of Effect:** 14 August 2020

<b>DETAILS</b>	COVID 19 Management at Port of Geraldton for Visiting Vessels
<b>FORMER NOTICE</b>	Cancel 01.4/2020 (issued 13 July 2020)

## PURPOSE

The purpose of this HMI is to provide details as to the processes in place at the Port of Geraldton regarding the management of COVID-19 for visiting commercial vessels.

## COVID-19 MWPA VETTING PROCESS

The following steps now apply to all visiting vessels:

Step	Document/Declaration to be Submitted	Submitted to Who?	Submitted When?
1	<b>Form 3B</b> (and <b>2B</b> where applicable)	MWPA & ABF	No later than 96 hours prior to arrival
2	<b>Form 13</b>	MWPA & ABF	No later than 96 hours prior to arrival
3	<b>MWPA Crew List</b>	MWPA	No later than 96 hours prior to arrival
4	<b>Email Confirmation of Health Status</b> - Stating that no personnel onboard are suffering from COVID-19 like symptoms (see Note 1 below)	MWPA	24 hours prior to scheduled pilot boarding time
5	<b>Pilot/Ship Verbal Declaration</b> – Pilot will confirm their own health and request confirmation of ship’s crew’s health	Between Pilot and Master by VHF	Immediately prior to Pilot boarding vessel

Note 1 – COVID-19 symptoms include (but are not limited to):

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath and breathing difficulties
- Pneumonia
- Severe acute respiratory syndrome

All MWPA correspondence is to be emailed to [shipping@midwestports.com.au](mailto:shipping@midwestports.com.au)

## INTERNATIONAL VESSEL RESTRICTIONS

In order to reduce the risk of infection, all vessels are to adhere to a 14-day incubation period from their last international port prior to berthing. The 14-day period commences from the most recent date that the:

- last crew change was conducted, or
- last crew shore leave was taken, or
- last contact with shoreside personnel in an international port, or
- any member of the crew declared suffering from COVID-19 like symptoms (further restrictions will apply in these circumstances)

## VESSELS TRADING BETWEEN AUSTRALIAN PORTS

Vessels arriving from interstate and intrastate ports within Australia will be assessed on a case by case basis. Approval to berth within the 14-day period will be dependent on the crew and vessels interactions prior to its arrival at Geraldton. Additional information may be requested regarding a vessel's operations and interaction with third parties and contractors in the 14-day period prior to arriving at Port of Geraldton.

## CREW SHORE LEAVE

Shore Leave is currently not permitted at Port of Geraldton.

## CREW CHANGES

MWPA is cognisant of the ongoing situation regarding the repatriation of seafarers worldwide during the COVID-19 pandemic. Given the current government-imposed restrictions regarding the entry and movement of international visitors and seafarers, any crew change is likely to require approvals or directions from government agencies. At this stage, crew are not permitted to proceed ashore without approval.

If any vessel owner, vessel operator, vessel Master or Shipping Agent becomes aware that a crew change is planned to occur in the Port of Geraldton, they are to engage MWPA as soon as possible.

## VISITORS AND THIRD-PARTY CONTRACTORS

All visitors and third-party contractors visiting the port or a vessel within the port are to abide by MWPA's COVID-19 protocols. A *Health Declaration* is required at a minimum and further details can be provided via [shipping@midwestports.com.au](mailto:shipping@midwestports.com.au)

## CONCLUSION

**The management of the COVID-19 pandemic is a dynamic process and MWPA appreciate the patience, support and co-operation from all our stakeholders. MWPA's port requirements will be amended / updated as required and instructed by relevant state and federal authorities as research progresses and requirements evolve into the control and management of the virus.**

