

## **Marine and Fisheries Advisory Notice: COVID -19**

**This notice brings to the attention of managers, owners and operators in the marine and fishing sectors of their duty of care for crew, other personnel and inspectors on-board their vessels.**

- Government advice to owners and operators in a marine setting is that if anyone becomes unwell with symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19), they should, if possible, be “sent home” or restricted to their cabin to self-isolate and, if possible, arrange to have a test to see if they have contracted COVID-19.
- If clinical advice at sea is required then **Telemedical** advice can be obtained (See MGN 623) For Scotland this would be from **Aberdeen Royal infirmary**. Current advice is that you do not visit the GP, pharmacy, urgent care centre or a hospital. If a member of the crew has helped someone who has symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19), they do not need to isolate or go home unless they develop symptoms themselves. They should ensure that they wash their hands thoroughly for 20 seconds after any contact with someone who is reported as unwell. **The Health Protection Team (HPT)** will also advise on the process to follow for disembarkation where this is relevant.
- The relevant Port Health Authority will liaise with the local HPT who can advise on assessment, testing and infection control. If anyone is severely unwell then contact should be made with the nearest Port Health Authority immediately in order to arrange disembarkation and transfer to an appropriate facility. The Port Health Authority **must be** informed of possible coronavirus (COVID- 19) infection if this is suspected. (see list of contacts attached)

### **Regulatory inspections at sea**

- **Marine Scotland Compliance** will continue to carry out regulatory boarding and inspections of vessels at sea and this will be done following established risk assessment protocols, this activity will remain proportionate.
- Appropriate PPE including face masks/shields and disposable gloves will be worn by all boarding officers and established sanitisation routines will be followed prior to and after the boarding.
- Throughout the boarding officers will continually assess the situation and modify their activity in order to minimise the risk of infection to the crew and themselves.
- Fishing vessel masters are required to do everything possible in order to facilitate the boarding of their vessels by British Sea fishery Officers which may include:

- Ensuring all areas to be inspected (fish hold, net drum etc.) are vacated by the crew and that safe access is provided.
- That social distancing of 2m is maintained throughout the boarding.
- That masters and crew do everything required of them to facilitate a safe boarding.
- Where the Commanding Officer of a Marine Protection Vessels is notified by a vessel master of possible COVID infection the Commanding Officer may require additional details of the symptoms and extent of possible infection.
- Commanding Officers will take a decision on how to safely carry out the inspection and this may require the fishing vessel going immediately to a suitable port to allow the crew to disembark and the inspection to go ahead.
- The vessel may be escorted to a nominated port and inspected on landing.