

NOTICE TO AGENTS, SHIP AND BERTH OPERATORS

NASBO 12 of 2020

Maritime Declaration of Health – COVID19 (Coronavirus)

Medway Notice to Mariners 12 of 2020 and NASBO 10 of 2020 state the latest guidance and requirements regarding the submission of a vessel's Maritime Declaration of Health (MDH) prior to arrival. London Port Health Authority (LPHA) continue to monitor compliance on the requirement to submit a declaration before arrival and will be notifying the port of any ship that has not provided one. LPHA are requesting that vessels/agents submit the MDH 12 – 24 hours before arrival. To increase visibility of the document all agents are requested to upload vessel MDH into the VMS booking in the same way that the CERS workbook is, **this does not, however, negate the need to submit it to the Port Health Authority.**

An MDH that identifies a crew health issue relating to Coronavirus will be “Red Flagged” and the agent and vessel will be contacted by Port Health. It is essential that agents notify Peel Ports immediately once they are aware of any vessel due into the PPLM area of jurisdiction that has been highlighted by Port Health as a potential risk.

As a second level of assurance London and Medway VTS will be asking all inward vessels for a verbal declaration that their MDH has been submitted prior to entry into the port or pilot boarding. Pilots may also ask for confirmation that this process has been followed shortly before embarkation as reassurance that no symptoms of Coronavirus have developed between submission of the MDH and arrival/pilot boarding.

Agents should be aware that as of today's date Peel Ports London Medway will be adopting the following policy which will remain in force until further notice:

1. Piloted Vessels – **No Maritime Declaration of Health** submitted before arrival, **Pilot will NOT board**. Vessel will be sent to safe anchorage until MDH is received.
2. PEC'd Vessels – **No Maritime Declaration of Health** submitted, **vessel will be sent to safe anchorage until MDH has been received**.
3. Vessels “Red Flagged” by Port Health Authority or Peel Ports will be sent to a safe anchorage awaiting further advice from LPHA / Public Health England.
4. If a clean MDH has been received then crew access ashore will be unaffected. **If, during a vessel's port stay, any crew member develops symptoms of Coronavirus then all ship's personnel must remain aboard and report the development to Medway VTS and their agent ASAP, advice will then be sought from LPHA / PHE.**
NB. This procedure applies to Peel Ports berths, other terminal advice may differ.

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London Port health Authority

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Public Health England (South East)

Telephone: 0344 225 3861

Guidance for shipping and ports which will assist with the reporting process can be found at :
[COVID-19: shipping and sea ports guidance - GOV.UK](#)

Any questions relating to Coronavirus (COVID-19) should be directed to LPHA or Public Health England.

Marine Operations Department
Peel Ports London Medway

18th March 2020