



Associated British Ports - Lowestoft

**No 17
2020**

NOTICE TO MARINERS

CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) – Updated VESSEL NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS and GUIDANCE FOR PILOTAGE.

Mariners, Port Users and Vessel Operators/Agents are advised of the following updated notification requirements for vessels arriving at Lowestoft:-

All vessels arriving from **any** port must submit a completed Maritime Declaration of Health to Lowestoft Port Control – lowestoftportcontrol@abports.co.uk when other pre-arrival information is submitted, but no later than 12hrs before the vessel's anticipated arrival time and no greater than 24 hours. This aligns with Port Health Authorities requirements. A copy of the Maritime Declaration of Health is attached with this notice.

Similarly, for any operations involving the transfer of personnel to or from vessels off the port of Lowestoft, e.g. for STS operations, the vessel Master will first need to submit a Maritime Declaration of Health to Port Control.

Ships will be questioned when in VHF range to confirm the presence or otherwise of cases or symptoms of Covid-19 onboard (frequent or continuous cough and or fever).

If a ship is clear of Covid -19 then normal pilotage operations can be conducted, with the measures below:

ABP has taken precautions to ensure that Pilots are healthy before they board your vessel and it is expected that ships take suitable precautions to ensure the health of ABP Pilots whilst they are on board your vessel.

Mitigation measures on board to reduce the transmission of COVID-19 should include:

- Rigorous cleaning of bridge and other equipment that the pilot would normally contact or use (VHF Radio handsets, chart tables, radar etc)
- Keeping a reasonable distance (2metres)
- Regular hand-washing and avoidance of touching the face
- Catching any coughs and sneezes with a tissue which is then disposed of

(See also http://www.abports.co.uk/Marine/Short_Sea_Ports/Lowestoft/Notices_to_Mariners/)

➤ Bridge team to be limited to critical crew members for the duration of the pilotage

However, If a ship declares that Covid-19 is onboard (having previously submitted a MDH without this declaration) it is likely that the ship will be invited to wait outside the pilotage area until preparations and planning have been completed, as advised by Port Health and the relevant Public Health Authority. If a pilot is required for port entry, the port will carry out a risk assessment prior to any pilot boarding the vessel. If pilot boarding is to continue, the vessel will be contacted by VHF to confirm the individual(s) with Covid-19 symptoms have been isolated in a secure area (Cabin) and that the above sanitisation measures have taken place.

Please ensure that this requirement is promulgated to all vessel Masters to avoid potential delays.

Please contact Lowestoft Port Control, VHF Ch 14, Tel. 01502 572286, if additional information is required.

Local Notice to Mariners No. 14 and 16 are hereby cancelled.

Harbour Master

28th March 2020

<p>Notices to Mariners Currently in Force: 2006 No.5 2007 No.13 2009 No.19 2011 No.7, No.10, No.19 2012 No.3, 2013 No.17, No.19, 2015 No.24 2016 No.12 2017 No.5, No.22, No.24, No.32, No.34 2018 No.34, 2019 No.2, No.18, No.27 2020 No.1, No.5, No.9, No.10, No.11, No.12a, No.13, No.17</p>
