



STATE OF WASHINGTON
BOARD OF PILOTAGE COMMISSIONERS

2901 Third Avenue, Suite 500 | Seattle, Washington 98121 | (206) 515-3904 | www.pilotage.wa.gov

March 24, 2020 - Update #2

March 10, 2020

**NOTICE REGARDING
STATE OF EMERGENCY PROCLAMATION 20-05
IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19 AND
WASHINGTON STATE COMPULSORY PILOTAGE**

The State of Washington Board of Pilotage Commissioners wants to keep you as informed as possible about continuing developments surrounding COVID-19 as it relates to compulsory pilotage in Washington State. On Monday March 23, 2020, Governor Inslee issued a Stay Home-Stay Healthy Order imposing restrictions on non-essential business operations and social gatherings. Washington State compulsory pilotage is exempt from this order as identified in the [“Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers”](#) list provided by the Governor.

Regarding the arrival of vessels that require State pilotage, please refer to the outline below, in accordance with the United States Coast Guard, the Center for Disease Control, and Washington State Department of Health.

We will provide updates to this notice as more information becomes available.

Board Emergency Rule regarding trainees – March 20, 2020

The Board has adjusted the Pilot Training Program to minimize risk of introducing vectors of exposure onto a vessel or to pilot trainees. The Board, in consultation with the Training Evaluation Committee (TEC), has restricted the type and number of trips available to trainees. The master and/or pilot have discretion on whether or not a single trainee is allowed on board for a limited number of routes approved by the TEC. If a trainee is approved for a specific assignment, the trainee must have a Declaration of Health statement at the time of boarding the vessel. Further information is available at the BPC website www.pilotage.wa.gov.

Current Precautionary Procedures by PUGET SOUND PILOTS:

1. Pilots are taking their temperatures prior to accepting an assignment.
2. Pilots are reporting to dispatchers and taking themselves out of rotation when exhibiting symptoms consistent with cold, flu or COVID-19.
3. Pilots are in a continuous state of sanitation at the pilot station and on the pilot boats, including all surfaces and door handles.
4. Pilots are practicing pilot distancing and social separation, including less shared meals.
5. Pilots are being encouraged to use the exterior stairs to gain access to the ship’s bridge, when available.
6. Pilots will use Personal Protective Equipment, as needed.
7. Pilots will provide a Declaration of Health, if requested.

Precautions for ALL VESSEL CREWS and PILOTS:

1. Pilots should report any symptoms of illness to dispatch and come off rotation.
2. Pilots should provide a personal health declaration, if requested by vessel or agent.
3. In the hour prior to pilot boarding, wipe down the entire bridge with a 5% solution of bleach water. (Chart table, instruments, chairs, helm, entire console, windows, etc.).
4. Crew members and pilots entering bridge should thoroughly wash their hands and face prior to entering the bridge, and their hands again immediately upon entering.
5. Any member of the bridge team, including the pilot, should gel their hands immediately after touching their face. Pilot should make this awareness a part of MPX.
6. Please only allow the essential personnel, such persons engaged in navigation of the vessel, in the wheelhouse while a pilot is onboard.
7. Pilots should not be using ship's coffee cups. They should bring their own.
8. Wash all coffee cups and utensils on the bridge thoroughly.
9. **Practice social distancing:** Changing behavior to keep more space between people can keep disease from spreading. Stay at least 6 feet away from other people and avoid close contact with people who are sick.

For vessels arriving from locations with no known COVID-19 outbreaks and no known illness on board:

1. Vessels are allowed to dock as usual with the precautions listed at the end of this document taken by the vessel crew and the pilot.

For vessels arriving from locations with known COVID-19 outbreaks, outside of the 14-day window of potential infection, with no known illness on board:

1. Per the Federal Captain of the Port order, vessels are allowed to dock as usual with the precautions listed at the end of this document taken by the vessel crew and the pilot.

For vessels arriving from locations with known COVID-19 outbreaks inside the 14-day window of potential infection, with no known illness on board:

1. Pilots will be made aware by the USCG Captain of the Port within 24 hours of arrival to allow pilots adequate time to access Personal Protective Equipment with proper precautions.
 - i. If going to anchor, the vessel may be directed by the pilot from aboard the attending tug.
 - ii. Guidance from the pilot on the tug will include a standard master pilot exchange, giving the ship's heading and speed orders via radio and confirmed back to the pilot from the ship's officers for closed loop communication.
2. If going to dock, the pilot may dock the vessel either from the bridge or deck of the ship or tug, per the pilot's discretion.

Please notify us of any questions or concerns

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