



STATE OF WASHINGTON
BOARD OF PILOTAGE COMMISSIONERS

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

September 10, 2021 - Update #3

March 10, 2020

**NOTICE REGARDING
STATE OF EMERGENCY PROCLAMATION 20-05 AND
STAY HOME STAY HEALTHY PROCLAMATION 20-25, et seq.
IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19 AND
WASHINGTON STATE COMPULSORY PILOTAGE**

The Washington State 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 and Puget Sound Pilots.

Puget Sound Pilots and pilot trainees are taking precautionary measures to ensure safety for the pilots and crews. These include:

1. Vaccination of every pilot and pilot trainee.
2. Masking.
3. Taking their temperatures prior to accepting an assignment.
4. Reporting to dispatchers and taking themselves out of rotation when exhibiting symptoms consistent with cold, flu or COVID-19.
5. Reporting to dispatchers and seeking medical advice if any close contact exposure to a confirmed or suspected COVID-19 case has occurred
6. Continuous sanitation at the pilot station and on the pilot boats, including all surfaces and door handles.
7. Practicing pilot distancing and social separation.
8. Use the exterior stairs to gain access to the ship's bridge, when available.
9. Use of Personal Protective Equipment, as needed.
10. Providing a Declaration of Health, if requested.

Pilots, crews, and vessel operators are advised to refer to the next section of this notice from the BPC's Board Designated Physician Dr. Ann Jarris, Discovery Health, MD containing additional guidelines, recommendations, and best practices. These recommendations are intended to be followed prior to and while the pilot is aboard to decrease the possibility of spreading the virus and to protect both the crew and pilots.

Please notify us of any questions or concerns

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September 8, 2021

To: Ivan Carlson
President, Puget Sound Pilots

Dear Ivan,

In response to recent events involving COVID-19 on vessels and significantly increased community spread nationwide, please see the following recommendations and best practices for reducing the risk of COVID-19 infection and transmission aboard vessels as pertaining to the Puget Sound Pilots.

1. Vaccination and masking are highly effective methods of preventing infection and transmission. At this point, all mariners should be vaccinated against SARS-CoV-2.
2. When pilots board a vessel, all pilots and crew the pilot may be exposed to should be masked at all times. A guide to appropriate mask types and use can be found here:
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/about-face-coverings.html>
3. If the entire crew is not vaccinated, only vaccinated crew should be permitted to interact with a pilot. Unvaccinated crew should not be in the same space as the pilot or present in any space a pilot may be in for at least an hour prior to pilot boarding.
4. Pilots should use outside stairways when available and ventilation should be maximized in all areas where the pilot may be present.
5. All pilots and crew should perform daily symptom screening. If symptoms concerning for COVID-19, pilot or crew should be tested and should not work until a negative test is obtained and symptoms are improving or until CDC criteria to discontinue isolation are met.
6. If testing is not immediately available for symptomatic crew, he or she should be placed in isolation until testing is available or CDC criteria to discontinue isolation are met. Symptomatic crew should not be allowed in the same area as a pilot, even if masked.
7. Recognizing the limitation of testing options in various ports and onboard and that delays in turn-around-time impairs the clinical relevance of the test, the preferred testing modalities are as follows (in order of preference):
 - a. Lab-based PCR testing when turn-around-time is less than 24 hours or sooner if result needed to allow vessel to sail or pilot to board
 - b. Rapid molecular tests
 - c. Rapid antigen tests
8. If a pilot or crew has a close contact exposure to a confirmed or suspected COVID-19 case, CDC guidance for quarantine and testing should be followed. For a vaccinated person, the current recommendation is to test 3-5 days after the exposure and mask until a negative test is obtained in that timeframe or 14 days have passed without development of symptoms. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated-guidance.html>



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9. Any case of suspected or confirmed COVID-19 on-board or in any crewmember disembarked in the prior 14 days must be reported to the pilots prior to boarding.
10. CDC guidance for cleaning and disinfecting should be followed.
11. If a pilot has confirmed or suspected COVID-19, all close contacts in the 48 hours prior to the onset of symptoms or positive test will be notified. Given that the explicit nature of contact may not be known, any vessels boarded by that pilot in that 48 hour window should be notified. An investigation between the pilots and vessel should then be undertaken to determine if a close contact exposure in fact occurred and if further disclosure, quarantine, or testing is warranted.

Thank you for your partnership during this challenging time. Please do not hesitate to contact me for further discussion.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ann Jarris MD".

Ann Jarris, MD
CEO, Discovery Health MD, PLLC