

Harbour Master Instruction

Number: 01/2022 **Date:** 07 February 2022
Date of Effect: 07 February 2022

DETAILS	COVID 19 Management for Visiting Vessels at the Port of Geraldton
FORMER NOTICE	05/2020

1 PURPOSE

The purpose of this Harbour Master Instruction (HMI) is to provide updates to the Covid-19 management protocols that were put in place in year 2020 for visiting vessels at the Port of Geraldton.

2 BACKGROUND

At the onset of Covid-19 pandemic in year 2020, MWPA implemented a 14 days quarantine rule (14 days rule) for all vessels arriving from international ports. The 14 days commenced on the departure from last international port and vessels were required to complete this quarantine period prior to being considered for berthing at the Port of Geraldton.

Since then, Covid-19 vaccinations have been introduced and the WA Government has issued various directions mandating vaccinations for port staff and use of PPE. Currently, 92.2% of the WA population is vaccinated and 100% of port users are vaccinated. It is worth noting that Australia has experienced outbreaks of Covid-19 cases in various states and the community transmission of Covid-19 has increased.

3 MANAGEMENT PLAN – INTERNATIONAL VESSELS

MWPA had put in place a suite of controls to manage Covid-19 risk from seafarers onboard vessels.

The list of previous controls and the new controls for all vessels arriving from international ports are listed in table 1. The new controls will come into effect from 07 February 2022.

TABLE 1: COVID-19 MANAGEMENT PROTOCOLS – INTERNATIONAL VESSELS

Controls	Previous	New
Back scanning of vessel's history (crew changes, ports visited etc)	28 days	21 days
PCR test results for recent on-signing crew members	All vessels	All vessels
Twice daily temperature check records for all crew members for the last 14 days	On request for vessels deemed to be 'higher risk'	All vessels
Requirement to submit health declaration forms prior to visit <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Form 3B (and 2B where applicable) Form 13 MWPA Crew list 	All vessels	All vessels
'Quarantine Period'	14 Days all vessels coming from international ports	14 Days for all vessels coming from international ports unless the following can be satisfied: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Negative Rapid Antigen Test (RAT) test results for all crew. Test to be conducted 24 hours prior to Pilot Onboard time
Pilots to conduct confirmatory health check via VHF prior to boarding	All vessels	All vessels
Pilots to wear Covid-19 PPE	All vessels	All vessels
Any individuals visiting vessels (surveyors, stevedores etc) to wear Covid-19 PPE	All vessels	All vessels
Seafarers to remain onboard	All vessels Government requirement	All vessels Government requirement

MWPA will adopt a risk-based approach for vessels which have undertaken crew changes recently and/or come from high risk countries. Some extra measures may be introduced such as the need for a second confirmatory RAT test for all crew onboard a vessel. The decision to berth vessels within 14 days from the last port is at the sole discretion of MWPA.

4 MANAGEMENT PLAN – INTERSTATE VESSELS

Vessels arriving from interstate and intrastate ports within Australia will be assessed on a case by case basis. Approval to berth within the 14-days period will be dependent on the crew and vessels interactions prior to its arrival at Geraldton. Additional information may be requested regarding a vessel's operations and interaction with third parties and contractors in the 14-days period prior to arriving at the Port of Geraldton. Vessels will be required to provide records of twice daily temperature checks for crew members for the last 14 days. Dependent on the port of origin, vessels may also be asked to submit RAT test results for crew members conducted 24 hours prior to berthing.

5 CONCLUSION

MWPA will continue to monitor the Covid-19 pandemic and may revise the requirements of this HMI if the situation warrants.

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