SOUTHERN PORTS INFORMATION UPDATE

SOUTHERN PORTS
ALBANY BUNBURY ESPERANCE

Novel Coronavirus COVID-19

Southern Ports is taking the outbreak of COVID-19 (Novel Coronavirus) seriously, and we are continuing to assess and implement the advice provided by the relevant Government Departments, including the Australian Border Force.

The risk of transmission of COVID-19 in Australia remains low, however Southern Ports recognises the situation is evolving, and we remain vigilant. A range of strict protocols and procedures is in place to ensure the health and safety of our workforce and our communities remains a priority.

The Federal Government has introduced strict 14 day isolation periods for people entering Australia from mainland China, Iran, South Korea and Italy. This includes people coming into Australia on cargo vessels or cruise ships. Foreign nationals who have visited these areas will not be allowed to enter Australia for 14 days from the time they left or transited through those countries. Australian citizens and permanent residents are still able to enter, however will be required to self-isolate at home for 14 days.

The Australian Border Force and the Federal Department of Agriculture and responsible for assessing incoming vessels and their crew.

CARGO VESSELS

Every vessel entering into Australia are required to notify authorities if the vessel, or any person on the vessel, has been in mainland China, Iran, South Korea or Italy within the timeframe dictated by the Federal Government. They are also required to report if any crew member or passenger is showing any symptoms of COVID-19.

Any ships that answer yes to these questions are required to remain at sea until they have been assessed and cleared by the appropriate government personnel.

Australian Border Force and Biosecurity officers are responsible for border clearance processes. Vessels that report ill persons will undergo a human health inspection by a Biosecurity Officer on arrival, and before the vessel is granted entrance to the port.

Click here for more information on the Federal Government's advice to the marine industry.

CRUISE SHIPS

Since the outbreak of COVI-19 there has been an increase in cruise ships visiting our ports, as ships are rerouting to avoid passages in higher-risk areas.

It is important to remember that prior to arrival in Albany, Bunbury or Esperance, all cruise ships visit another Australian port where they undergo strict quarantine protocols as outlined by the Federal Government.

The Western Australian Government is confident the arrival of cruise ships into Western Australia present minimal risk to the health of Western Australians. There are well-established processes in place to ensure that serious infectious diseases, including COVID-19, are identified and appropriately managed.

Cruise ship crew members and medical staff are legally required to notify the Federal Government if any passenger on board has COVID-19-like symptoms.

All vessel masters are also required to answer a series of health screening questions as part of their entry into Australia.

Southern Ports has the authority to allow or refuse entry to any vessel into their ports, including cruise ships. However, in these situations entry would only be denied if Southern Ports was alerted to any potential COVID-19 threat, on the advice of the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment.

Click here for the Southern Ports cruise ship fact sheet and here for more information on the Federal Government's advice to the cruise industry.

SOUTHERN PORTS WORKFORCE

Southern Ports have robust crisis and emergency management plans, which can be activated as the need arises. We are encouraging our staff to adhere to the personal hygiene and travel advice provided by the Federal Department of Health.

MORE INFORMATION

More information on the symptoms of COVID-19 and the personal hygiene measures you can take to help protect yourself from COVID-19 can be found on the World Health Organisation website.

Southern Ports encourages community members to keep up-to-date with the latest information about COVID-19 through the WA Government's daily updates, or the Federal Government's COVID-19 health alerts.

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