

# SOUTHERN PORTS INFORMATION UPDATE

## Novel Coronavirus COVID-19



Last updated 12 August 2020

Southern Ports continues to address the threat of COVID-19, and protecting our communities remains one of our key priorities.

### INCOMING VESSELS

Under the WA Emergency Direction Quarantine (Closing the Border) Direction, no one can enter WA unless they are an exempt traveller. This includes crew travelling on vessels whose last port was outside of WA.

Maritime crew are not considered an 'exempt traveller', and therefore need to apply for an exemption under different directions, which are only granted by the WA Police for crew change purposes. This exemption also requires crew to isolate for 14 days once.

Effectively, this means that since May crew from both interstate and international vessels have not been able to disembark, unless leaving the ship for crew change purposes.

All vessels are still required to complete and submit a Health Report, which is assessed by Biosecurity personnel, before being allowed to berth.

To adequately manage the potential risk of COVID-19, we operate under the assumption that there may be asymptomatic cases of COVID-19

on board vessels, and as such have implemented robust measures to protect our staff.

There is minimal need for Southern Ports personnel to board a ship, but those who are required to do so are provided with Personal Protective Equipment and adhere to distancing requirements.

### OUR WORKFORCE

As an essential service, we have continued to operate throughout the height of the pandemic, and our sites continue to be COVID Safe workplaces.

While we have cautiously eased our restrictions in line with the Government recommendations, we continue to operate with social distance measures in place, maintain increased cleaning regimes and encourage good hygiene practices.

### OUR COMMUNITIES

We are pleased to have been able to support a number of community organisations who are providing vital services supporting the vulnerable in our regions, including Foodbank Albany and Bunbury, Anglicare, St John Ambulance, Esperance Care Services, Hope Community Services and Esperance Crisis Accommodation.