**Quarantine/isolation process at the maritime border**

**1 July 2020**

The COVID-19 Public Health Response (Maritime Border) Order 2020 was made on 26 June 2020 to strengthen maritime border controls to further mitigate the risks from COVID-19 entering New Zealand via the maritime pathway. A copy of the order is available [here](https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-current-situation/covid-19-epidemic-notice-and-orders#border).

Under the Order, all vessels are prohibited from entering New Zealand (unless exempt) and there are strict isolation or quarantine requirements for those arriving at the maritime border.

**Vessels exempted from prohibition to enter New Zealand**

* If the vessel is in distress and/or it is necessary for the vessel to arrive in New Zealand to preserve human life.
* An Antarctic ship.[[1]](#footnote-1)
* A cargo ship to allow the loading and unloading of cargo.
* A fishing ship, that is unloading its catch, re-provisioning or refuelling, or both; or embarking or disembarking crew.[[2]](#footnote-2)
* A foreign State ship that has been granted diplomatic clearance by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. This includes a warship of any other State and ships owned or operated by a foreign state that are operated for non-commercial purposes.
* A ship where there is a compelling need for the ship to arrive in New Zealand for re-provisioning and refuelling, or both; OR to deliver the ship to a business, including for the purpose of repairing or refitting the ship; AND the Director-General has granted the ship permission to arrive in New Zealand.
* A ship granted permission by the Director-General of Health (after consulting any relevant agencies) for humanitarian reasons or other compelling needs.

This advice covers the crew on vessels in distress, Antarctic ships, cargo and fishing vessels, and vessels entering New Zealand for re-provisioning, refuelling, or delivery to a business. Crew on other classes of vessels (for example, foreign State ships) will be managed on a case by case basis.

This advice is a living document and will be clarified and updated as required. Some advice is still being developed (as indicated in green highlight).

Please send any queries or comments to notifyenvhealth@health.govt.nz

**Isolation or quarantine requirements in the Order**

All persons arriving via the maritime border (with limited exceptions) must adhere to the Order’s quarantine or isolation requirements. This includes those arriving on small craft and pleasure craft. An exception to this rule is crew on board a vessel that are not leaving the vessel.

* People wanting to disembark the vessel must remain in quarantine or isolation on the vessel for at least 14 days after arrival.
* An exception to this requirement exists where:

1. The ship has been at sea for more than 28 consecutive days, **AND**
2. During this time no person has had contact with any other persons other than those people who were on board the ship when it most recently departed, **AND**
3. The Customs and Excise Act 2018 requirements for the arrival of craft and disembarkation of persons have been adhered to, **AND**
4. A medical officer of health or health protection officer is reasonably satisfied that no persons on board have displayed symptoms of COVID-19.

* If the person meets requirements a-d, their quarantine isolation period would be for the number of days needed to make up the 28- day period.  For example, if the ship had been at sea for 25 consecutive days then they would be subject to quarantine for 3 days (25 + 3 = 28 days)
* If the vessel is an Antarctic ship the 14-day period is counted from the more recent of: (i) the time the ship was last in port, and (ii) the time at which the ship last took a person on board.

The 14-day period of quarantine/isolation begins when the vessel arrives in New Zealand. The definition of arriving has the same meaning as the Customs and Excise Act 2018 section 5(1). New Zealand is defined as *“...the land and waters enclosed by the outer limits of the territorial sea of New Zealand.”*

Quarantine/isolation on board a vessel requires all persons on board to minimise contact with any other person to the best extent possible, in order to reduce the risk of a chain of transmission ie passing COVID-19 to other crew members. It also includes being examined or tested for COVID-19 at any time during the quarantine/isolation period. See **Scenario 1**.

Persons can only disembark the vessel in accordance with the Order. Examples of reasons to disembark are described in the supporting ‘scenario’ process flow charts and notes below:

* A person is unable or unwilling to remain in isolation or quarantine on the vessel (**Scenario 2).**
* To undertake an essential task related to the vessel that requires temporarily disembarking (for example, loading/unloading cargo, ship maintenance, undertaking vessel safety check, necessary ship preparations such as rigging gangways, etc) (**Scenario 3)**
* For other purposes, including emergencies, accessing urgent health services, accessing a court or tribunal, being required to disembark by a medical officer of health or health protection officer (**Scenario 3**)
* After isolation or quarantine period (on the vessel) is completed (**Scenario 4)**
* To travel to an international airport to leave New Zealand (for example, as part of a crew change) (see **Scenarios 5A and 5B**)

Information has also been provided for:

* Crew arriving by air into New Zealand to join a vessel at a New Zealand port (**Scenario 6**)
* The process for seeking the Director-General of Health’s permission for a vessel to enter because there is a compelling need to arrive for reprovisioning and/or refuelling.

**Scenario 1: Isolating or in quarantine on the vessel**

Crew members undertake isolation or quarantine on the vessel

Crew members to1:

* Remain on vessel
* Minimise contact with others on the vessel, including maintaining physical distancing
* Undertake personal hygiene
* If a crew member has contact with any New Zealand port workers or border official, then they must wear PPE and maintain 2 metres distance (as much as practicable)

Crew members must all undertake a daily self COVID-19 health checks. A crew member may be required to undertake a medical examination or testing during their isolation or quarantine.2

Does crew member have suspected COVID-19 symptoms?

Isolation/quarantine complete (see scenario 4), crew members may disembark vessel, depart NZ by air, or stay in New Zealand if eligible5

Crew members complete their isolation/quarantine at the relevant location, including any required medical examinations and testing & are cleared to leave (eg, return to the vessel, transfer to airport to depart NZ, or stay in NZ if eligible5)

Ship master must inform ship’s agent of potential COVID-19 symptoms. Ship’s agent to contact public health unit and GP (as appropriate)

Ship master informs border officials

Crew member remains on board and must follow strict isolation procedures3

NONO

YESNO

Crew member transferred to hospital if required4

Crew member transferred to managed facility if required4

**Notes for Scenario 1**

1. The requirements for isolation or quarantine on a vessel include the following:

* Remain on the vessel. There are some exceptions where crew members can disembark the vessel to undertake essential tasks or for certain specified reasons (see **Scenario 3**). In some cases, disembarkation is permitted if the crew member is being transferred to a managed facility (see **Scenarios 2, 3 and 4**) or departing by air (see **Scenario 5A and 5B**).
* Crew should minimise contact with other people on the vessel as much as possible. If there is a need to interact/engage closely with other crew members, sill try to maintain physical distancing to the greatest extent possible.
* Crew should wear PPE including a surgical mask and gloves if there is a requirement to come into close contact with another person who is not on their vessel. Avoid taking gloved hands or un-gloved hands to eyes, nose or mouth and use a thorough handwashing technique.
* All crew should complete a daily health check for COVID-19 symptoms, which include looking for the following symptoms: a cough, a high temperature (at least 38˚C), shortness of breath, a sore throat, sneezing and a running nose, or temporary loss of smell.
* All crew should complete a daily temperature check.
* Before and after wearing gloves, crew should wash, and dry hands using the correct technique or immediately use the antiseptic gel (hand sanitizer) at your work station.
* When coughing, maintain distance, cover coughs and sneezes with your elbow, disposable tissues or clothing, and wash and dry hands afterwards or use hand sanitizer.

If a crew member does need to interact with others (for example port workers or border control officials), they must maintain physical distancing of at least 2 metres to the greatest extent possible. They must also wear PPE including a surgical mask and gloves.

As well as the requirements listed above, try to take these additional self-isolation steps (noting that it may be difficult for crew members to separate themselves on the vessel):

* If possible, avoid sharing a bed with others or sleeping in a common area.
* Minimise the time spent in shared spaces on the vessel as much as possible and keep shared spaces clean and well ventilated.
* Ensure that all surfaces are cleaned with disinfectant. Try to avoid touching them after you have cleaned them. This includes areas like kitchen benches and sink tops.
* Use separate towels (for after showering and for hand-hygiene), washcloths and bed linen from others on the vessel.
* Clean any shared toilets and bathrooms each time after they have been used.
* If possible, try to eat in a separate area from others. Ensure all dishes are washed thoroughly in hot water with suitable detergent.
* Do not share dishes, drinking glasses, cups or eating utensils. Do not share food and drinks.
* Do your own laundry where possible. Do not shake dirty laundry.

1. The Order states that a crew member must submit to a medical examination or testing at any time during their required period of isolation or quarantine if requested by a medical officer of health or health protection officer.

3. Crew should follow any direction of the medical officer of health or health protection officer. If the crew member remains in quarantine on the vessel then they must follow procedures to reduce the spread of COVID-19:

* At all times remain in cabin.
* Do not have any contact with other crew members on the vessel.

4. A medical officer of health or health protection officer will determine if a crew member is transferred to a quarantine facility or hospital. A **high-risk facility** is a facility designated by a medical officer of health for the purposes of detaining people in a way appropriate for people with a high risk of transmitting COVID-19. A **low-risk facility** is a facility designated by a medical officer of health for the purposes of detaining people in a way appropriate for people with a low risk of transmitting COVID-19. The medical officer of health or health protection officer may decide that the place of isolation/quarantine should be another place if this is necessary due to the physical needs of the person.

The medical officer of health or health protection officer will arrange for the crew member to be booked into an appropriate managed facility. The mechanism to do this is to email [covid-19\_national\_isolation@health.govt.nz](mailto:covid-19_national_isolation@health.govt.nz) .

Further guidance on transporting people to minimise the risk of COVID-19 is provided at Appendix 1.

More information on the processes for managed isolation and quarantine facilities is available on the Ministry of Health’s website [here.](https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-current-situation/covid-19-border-controls/covid-19-managed-isolation-and-quarantine)

5. To remain in New Zealand the crew member must meet New Zealand immigration requirements. For more information, refer to:

* [Ministry of Health’s border control webpage](https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-current-situation/covid-19-border-controls).
* [Immigration New Zealand’s border control webpage](file:///C:\Users\ljohnsto\AppData\Local\Temp\notes1CE020\•%09https:\www.immigration.govt.nz\about-us\covid-19\border-closures-and-exceptions).

**Scenario 2 – Person wants to disembark vessel arrived at a NZ port, and the crew are still under quarantine or isolation because it is:**

* **28 days or less since vessel left last overseas port (or encountered other person since leaving last port)**
* **14 days or less since vessel arrived in NZ territorial waters**

Person unwilling or unable to complete isolation period on the vessel may be transferred to a managed facility on the direction of a Medical Officer of Health or Health Protection Officer1

The person will undergo a medical examination and testing for COVID-19. This involves:

* Temperature check
* Seeking information on symptoms
* Other medical examination as appropriate (eg, listening to the crew member’s chest)
* Taking mouth or nose swabs (or both)

The results of the health check will determine the type of managed isolation or quarantine facility the person is to be transferred to (ie, a low risk, high risk, or other facility1).

Person completes 14-day period at the managed facility, including any required medical examination and testing & is cleared to leave

Person remains at managed facility until their vessel or aircraft is ready to depart. They then complete the required medical examination & testing & can be cleared to leave facility

Leaves facility and returns to the vessel, or departs NZ, or remains in NZ2

**Notes for Scenario 2**

1. The vessel agent will contact the local DHB public health unit to discuss the details of the transfer. The medical officer of health or health protection officer will arrange for the crew member to be booked into an appropriate managed facility. The mechanism to do this is to email [covid-19\_national\_isolation@health.govt.nz](mailto:covid-19_national_isolation@health.govt.nz) .

The agent is required to provide a plan of private travel for the crew member. The crew member must wear PPE. Further guidance on transporting people to minimise the risk of COVID-19 is provided at Appendix 1.

Contacts for public health units are available [here](https://www.health.govt.nz/new-zealand-health-system/key-health-sector-organisations-and-people/public-health-units/public-health-unit-contacts).

A **high-risk facility** is a facility designated by a medical officer of health for the purposes of detaining people in a way appropriate for people with a high risk of transmitting COVID-19. A **low risk facility** is a facility designated by a medical officer of health for the purposes of detaining people in a way appropriate for people with a low risk of transmitting COVID-19. The medical officer of health or health protection officer may decide that the place of isolation/quarantine should be another place if this is necessary due to the physical needs of the person.

More information on the processes for managed isolation and quarantine facilities is available on the Ministry of Health’s website [here](https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-current-situation/covid-19-border-controls/covid-19-managed-isolation-and-quarantine).

1. To remain in New Zealand the crew member must meet New Zealand immigration requirements. For more information, refer to:

* [Immigration New Zealand’s border control webpage.](https://www.immigration.govt.nz/about-us/covid-19/border-closures-and-exceptions)
* [Ministry of Health’s border control webpage.](file:///C:\Users\ljohnsto\AppData\Local\Temp\notes1CE020\•%09https:\www.health.govt.nz\our-work\diseases-and-conditions\covid-19-novel-coronavirus\covid-19-current-situation\covid-19-border-controls)

**Scenario 3 – Person wants to disembark a vessel arrived at NZ to undertake essential tasks, or for other reasons, covered by the Order**

Crew in isolation/quarantine on the vessel. Crew members completes their daily symptoms and temperature checks and remain symptom free.

still meet relevant immigration rules to remain in NZ),

still meet relevant immigration rules to remain in NZ),

Crew can disembark for certain permitted purposes including:

* As a matter of emergency to preserve their or another person’s life or safety
* To access a court or tribunal
* To move to another managed facility2 in compliance with a court order or obligations related to the detention of a person (eg probation officer directions)
* Persons can also leave the ship for exceptional reasons as authorised by the DG Health3
* As required by a medical officer of health or health protection officer:
  + In order to access medical services
  + To move to another place of isolation/quarantine (eg managed facility2)
  + Under the Quarantine Provisions in Part 4 of the Health Act 1956
  + To assist or accompany a child to travel to/from a place under any reason in the Order.

If suspected COVID-19 symptoms found then report to local public health unit and follow advice and direction of health authorities. **See Scenario 1.**

Crew can disembark (temporarily) to undertake essential tasks including:

* Loading or unloading cargo
* Maintenance of the ship
* Undertaking safety checks
* Necessary preparations of the ship (eg, rigging gangways)

still meet relevant immigration rules to remain in NZ),

Must take reasonable steps to minimise the risk of spreading COVID-19:1

* Remain as close to ship as reasonably possible
* Maintain physical distancing from others not from the ship
* Wear PPE if coming into close contact with others not from the ship
* Follow directions of enforcement officer

The above permissions apply only if a person has, where practicable, advised & complied with reasonable directions from an enforcement officer.

When disembarking, person(s) to:4

* Wear PPE
* Use private transport only
* Maintain physical distancing as far as practicable
* Inform persons you are meeting/interacting with why you are allowed off the vessel

still meet relevant immigration rules to remain in NZ),

Return to ship after essential task(s) completed

Vessel departs

Return to ship or make other arrangements if it has departed, in compliance with directions by health officers or other authorised persons

**Notes for Scenario 3**

1. Key steps to minimise the risk of spreading COVID-19 include:

* Crew must complete essential tasks as close as reasonably possible to the ship. Crew must not venture any further than necessary for the task and should limit interaction with other people.
* If crew must interact with others (for example, port workers or border control officials), maintain physical distancing to the greatest extent possible, ideally not within 2 metres.
* Crew should wear PPE - a surgical/medical mask and gloves, if there is a requirement to come into close contact with another person. Crew should avoid taking gloved hands or un-gloved hands to their eyes, nose, or mouth and use a thorough handwashing technique.
* Before and after wearing gloves, crew should wash, and dry hands using the correct technique or immediately use the antiseptic gel (hand sanitizer)
* When coughing, maintain distance, cover coughs and sneezes with your elbow, disposable tissues or clothing, and wash and dry hands afterwards or use hand sanitizer.
* Follow any directions of an enforcement officer - appointed under the COVID-19 Public Health Response Act 2020. Such directions may include directions from a medical officer of health, a constable, or another person authorised to under this Act.

1. The medical officer of health or health protection officer will arrange for the crew member to be booked into an appropriate managed facility. The mechanism to do this is to email [covid-19\_national\_isolation@health.govt.nz](mailto:covid-19_national_isolation@health.govt.nz). Further guidance on transporting people to minimise the risk of COVID-19 is provided at Appendix 1.

More information on the processes for managed isolation and quarantine facilities is available on the Ministry of Health’s website [here](https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-current-situation/covid-19-border-controls/covid-19-managed-isolation-and-quarantine).

1. To disembark a vessel for exceptional reasons as approved by the Director-General of Health, the following process would apply. The ship’s agent would need to clearly set out proposed reasons in writing. This should:

* Describe any impacts that leaving the ship might have on the risk of an outbreak or spread of COVID-19 and how these will be managed
* Explain how the person meets the low risk indicators – (a) the person submits to a medical test for COVID-19 and the result of that test is negative; and (b) any other medical tests or information that indicate the person is at low risk of having or transmitting COVID-19).[[3]](#footnote-3)
* Outline the measures that will be taken to ensure compliance with the authorisation, if granted.

In the first instance the ship agent should provide this information to the local public health unit. The public health unit will review the application and may seek further information (unless it is an emergency which requires immediate disembarkation). The public health unit would then make a recommendation for the Director-General to consider, if applicable. The Director-General would the decide whether to grant or decline the request.

Contacts for public health units are available [here](https://www.health.govt.nz/new-zealand-health-system/key-health-sector-organisations-and-people/public-health-units/public-health-unit-contacts).

1. Refer above for guidance on PPE and physical distancing. Further guidance on transporting people to minimise the risk of COVID-19 is provided at Appendix 1.

**Scenario 4 – Person wants to disembark a vessel arrived in NZ**

* **More than 28 days since vessel left its last overseas port (or encountered other person since leaving last port)**
* **More than 14 days since vessel arrived**

Person completes symptom and temperature self-check

Do any the following apply:

Does person have COVID-19 or symptoms?

Have they been tested and awaiting results of the test?

Have they been in close contact with a suspected, probable, or confirmed case?

NOS

YESNO

NOS

still meet relevant immigration rules to remain in NZ),

Returning to NZ to live (must meet NZ immigration requirements)

If suspected COVID-19 symptoms found then report to local public health unit and follow advice and direction of health authorities. **See Scenario 1.**

Transferred to international airport to exit NZ

Person to:1

* Self-isolate at their home for 2 days
* Undergo a COVID-19 test
* Remain in self-solation until negative test confirmed

Transfer to airport as quickly & directly as reasonably practicable2

Departs NZ

Exit self-isolation

**Notes for Scenario 4**

1. In the first instance, voluntary compliance for such isolation and testing steps should be sought for crew wanting to return into the NZ community (for example, citizens wanting to go return to their homes after finishing working on a vessel).

However, if the person will not voluntarily comply then the medical officer of health should contact the Ministry of Health with a view to arranging an order under section 70 of the Health Act 1956 to be produced to support compliance with this procedure. Such section 70 Orders will be required for individuals who do not voluntarily comply (or individuals as long as they can be named and individually identified). The Ministry will draft an order and provide it to the medical officer of health.

Further guidance on transport people to minimise the risk of COVID-19 is provided at Appendix 1.

More information on the processes for self-isolation is available on the Ministry of Health’s website [here](https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-health-advice-general-public/covid-19-self-isolation-close-contacts-and-travellers).

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1. The ship agent will generally be responsible for organising transport to an international airport. Further guidance on transporting people to minimise the risk of COVID-19 is provided in Appendix 1.

**Scenario 5A - Vessel crew wanting to depart New Zealand by air prior to completing isolation requirements (see also Scenario 5B, below)**

Crew member on vessel in NZ port wants to disembark the vessel they arrived on (or leave a managed facility they were transferred to on arrival) BEFORE they have completed the isolation or quarantine (in order to depart NZ).

Ship’s agent to contact the public health unit to discuss details of departure.1

The departing international flight is NOT due to leave NZ on the same day that the crew member departs their vessel2

The departing international flight is due to leave NZ on the same day the crew member departs their vessel2

Crew member transfers to a managed facility.3

(See **Scenario 2**)

Person to remain at the facility for 14 days or until the flight departs (which ever happens first)

Transfer to airport from the vessel, or from the managed facility, in accordance with any directions from a Medical Officer of Health or Health Protection Officer

Transfer must be as quickly & directly as reasonably practicable using only dedicated private transport.

The crew member should wear PPE during transfer.

Crew member Departs NZ on international flight

**Notes for Scenario 5A**

1. The vessel’s agent needs to contact the local DHB public health unit to discuss the how to safely manage the crew member’s departure by air in a way that minimises public health risks. Such measures are to include:

* Using private transport only travelling as quickly and directly to the international airport as reasonably practicable. For example, the transfer could occur via the agent using their car or hiring a vehicle. Further guidance on transporting people to minimise the risk of COVID-19 is provided at Appendix 1.
* There being less than five hours road travel to the airport of international departure
* Physical distancing should be maintained in the vehicle (at least one metre) if someone who has not been on the vessel is in the vehicle
* The crew member and driver to wear PPE, including a surgical mask and gloves
* The vehicle needs to be sanitised once the transfer has been completed.

Contacts for public health units are available [here](https://www.health.govt.nz/new-zealand-health-system/key-health-sector-organisations-and-people/public-health-units/public-health-unit-contacts).

1. In most cases, the transfer should be organised so that the crew member departs the vessel on the same day as their flight is departing New Zealand. This will require close communication between shipping agents and public health units. In some cases, there may be a valid reason for the crew member to depart the vessel on a day before their scheduled flight. For example, the vessel may be sailing to another port in New Zealand or departing New Zealand, so the crew members needs to disembark sooner. In such cases, the number of days between departure from the vessel and arrival at the international airport should be kept to a minimum as possible.

In such cases the medical officer of health or health protection officer will need to arrange the transfer of a crew member to a managed facility. Further guidance on transporting people to minimise the risk of COVID-19 is provided at Appendix 1.

1. The medical officer of health or health protection officer will arrange for the crew member to be booked into an appropriate managed facility. The mechanism to do this is to email [covid-19\_national\_isolation@health.govt.nz](mailto:covid-19_national_isolation@health.govt.nz). Further guidance on transporting people to minimise the risk of COVID-19 is provided at Appendix 1.

More information on the processes for managed isolation and quarantine facilities is available on the Ministry of Health’s website [here](https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-current-situation/covid-19-border-controls/covid-19-managed-isolation-and-quarantine).

**Scenario 5B – Process to support maritime crew disembarking a vessel in New Zealand (see also Scenario 5A)**

Shipping agent notified of crew change (e.g. by shipping line/manning co.). Advance Notice of Arrival (ANoA) form must be submitted to NZ Customs Service and Border Health Protection Officer (in DHB PHU1), and other border agencies, at least 48 hours before arrival in New Zealand waters.

Shipping agents’ responsibilities include:

* Confirming visa status for crew is valid for NZ, transit countries, and country of destination
* Arranging dedicated private transport from vessel to airport or managed facility if applicable (see also **Scenario 5A** and **Appendix 1**), including ongoing communication with the private transport provider
* Notifying port company and DHB Public Health Unit (PHU) of intention to facilitate crew change
* Oversight of crew until the vessel departs (eg, if crew flights are delayed they may need to return to the vessel

**Crew intend to depart**

**No crew intend to depart**

Border Health Officer to assess ANoA to check if any crew intend to depart the vessel2

Border Health Officer to contact vessel master / shipping agent to:3

* Confirm receipt of ANoA and that crew intend to depart the vessel
* Advise agent on the Maritime Order’s new requirements if necessary
* Confirm the date when the 14-day quarantine/self-isolation period will be completed for persons staying on the vessel
* Collect information on:
  + Crew disembarking (names and number of crew) and why they need to disembark
  + Intended date and port/airport of departure from NZ

Border Health Officer to contact vessel master/shipping agent to:3

* Confirm receipt of ANoA and that no crew intend to depart the vessel
* Advise agent on the Maritime Order’s new quarantine/isolation requirements if necessary
* Confirm the date when the 14-day quarantine/self-isolation period will be completed

No change in health status notice submitted 12-24 hours before arrival.

No change in health status notice submitted 12-24 hours before arrival. Will update the Health Officer if any change in planned crew departures since ANoA

Health Officer at port of arrival to liaise with the Health Officers at any subsequent NZ ports to confirm the end date of the quarantine/self-isolation period

(If vessel will visit other NZ ports) Health Officer at port of arrival to liaise with the Health Officers at any subsequent NZ ports to confirm the end date of the quarantine/self-isolation period and when and where crew intend to depart NZ

Crew members self-isolate on vessel while waiting for it to depart (there are some exceptions, e.g. see **Scenario 3** for temporary disembarkation for essential tasks or certain purposes).

Vessel departs NZ.

Shipping agent facilitates crew transfer via dedicated private transport. Health Officer to provide supporting advice if needed on transport to airport (see also **Scenario 5A, supporting notes, and Appendix 1**).

**Notes for Scenario 5B**

1. Contacts for public health units are available [here](https://www.health.govt.nz/new-zealand-health-system/key-health-sector-organisations-and-people/public-health-units/public-health-unit-contacts).
2. Reasons for departure include crew travelling to an international airport to depart New Zealand as part of a crew change (see **scenario 5A**), crew leaving for other purposes under the order (see **scenario 3**). This is a new function for Public Health Units (PHUs) in light of the new Maritime Border Order.
3. Key information PHUs will need to communicate to ship agents / vessels about the new Order includes:
   1. Foreign flagged vessels are prohibited from entering New Zealand, unless they are exempted by the Order
   2. There are strict isolation or quarantine requirements for all those arriving at the maritime border
   3. Persons wanting to disembark the vessel must remain in quarantine or isolation on the vessel for at least 14 days after arrival in New Zealand waters. There some exceptions under the Order as outlined in Ministry of Health Guidance: *Quarantine/isolation process at the maritime border*

The PHU’s role is to support the ship’s agent to manage crew changes while ensuring that public health is protected. If crew are intending to disembark to fly out of New Zealand, it is important that PHUs are aware of intended crew movements, able to provide public health advice to ship agents, and notify other PHUs around New Zealand if the vessel it to sail on to other NZ ports. Other PHUs will need to know:

* The status of the 14-day quarantine/self-isolation period as the vessel moves to other ports
* When and where intended crew changes are to occur at ports in their area.

PHUs should also liaise closely with local Customs Officers regarding crew changes on vessels to ensure both agencies are aware of what is happening regarding crew movements.

**Scenario 6 – Crew arriving by air wanting to join a vessel**

Crew member arrives from overseas at NZ international airport to join a vessel departing from a NZ port.

Is the destination vessel scheduled to depart ‘as soon as reasonably practicable’1

NOYESNO

YESNO

Crew member transferred to managed facility for isolation/quarantine as quickly & directly as reasonably practicable using only dedicated private transport.3

Crew member travels to vessel from the airport as quickly & directly as reasonably practicable using only dedicated private transport.2

If vessel then needs to depart during the 14-day period, the person can be transferred to the vessel after a health check. Transfer is to be as quickly & directly as reasonably practicable using only dedicated private transport.

When a new crew member boards the vessel the 14-day isolation period for those onboard starts again. See **Scenario 1.**

If a crew member completes isolation in a managed facility and is cleared to leave, they must travel to the vessel as quickly & directly as reasonably practicable using only dedicated private transport.3

Disembarkation is allowed for certain essential tasks and purposes (in some circumstances). See **Scenario 3**.

Vessel may depart NZ, or leave to continue operating in New Zealand waters or visit other NZ ports

Vessel departs NZ

**Notes for Scenario 6**

1. Whether the vessel is due to depart ‘as soon as reasonably practicable’ will depend on the situation. Generally, this would be within 48 hours of the crew member’s arrival. However, in some circumstances, it may be longer – for example, the arriving crew member has to undertake essential work duties on the vessel, before the vessel is able to depart, and these duties take longer than 48 hours. Other examples may include the vessel departure being delayed due to weather issues, or because of port activities that delay the vessel. If it is likely to be more than 48 hours before the vessel departs, the agent should contact the public health unit to discuss the option of the crew member being transferred to a managed facility.

Contacts for public health units are available [here](https://www.health.govt.nz/new-zealand-health-system/key-health-sector-organisations-and-people/public-health-units/public-health-unit-contacts).

1. The vessel’s agent needs to contact the local DHB public health unit to discuss how to safely manage the crew member’s journey from their airport to the vessel in a way that minimises public health risks. Such measures are to include:

* Using private transport only travelling as quickly and directly to the international airport as reasonably practicable. For example, the transfer could occur via the agent using their car or hiring a private vehicle. The transfer must not be via public transport services. Further guidance on transporting people to minimise the risk of COVID-19 is provided at Appendix 1.
* Physical distancing should be maintained in the vehicle (at least one metre)
* The crew member and driver to wear PPE, including a surgical mask and gloves
* The vehicle needs to be sanitised once the transfer has been completed.

3 The medical officer of health or health protection officer will arrange for the crew member to be booked into an appropriate managed facility. The mechanism to do this is to email [covid-19\_national\_isolation@health.govt.nz](mailto:covid-19_national_isolation@health.govt.nz).

The vessel’s agent needs to contact the local DHB public health unit to discuss how to manage the crew member’s journey from the airport to the managed facility (and subsequent travel from the managed facility to the vessel). Such travel measures will include those notes above in 2.

More information on the processes for managed isolation and quarantine facilities is available on the Ministry of Health’s website [here](https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-current-situation/covid-19-border-controls/covid-19-managed-isolation-and-quarantine).

**Appendix 1:** **Transporting people in the quarantine and isolation context**

Transporting passengers must be only by using dedicated private transport. Appropriate processes will generally include:

* Both the driver and passenger should wear PPE - a surgical mask and gloves.
* If possible, use a vehicle that allows for physical distancing of 2 metres as much as practicable during the transport (including before and after being in the vehicle) – for example, a minivan. Use a vehicle that allows for 2 metres between the driver and the passengers. Crew members of the vessel who are self-isolating may sit together. Where practical, keep two rows free of passengers behind the driver.
* If in a smaller private vehicle, for example a car, the crew member should sit diagonally behind the driver to maximise physical distancing.
* Hand hygiene is to be performed before and after wearing gloves and entering the vehicle. Wash and dry hands using the correct technique or immediately use the antiseptic gel (hand sanitizer).
* Hand hygiene is required after handling luggage, but passengers should load their own luggage where possible.
* When coughing, maintain distance, cover coughs and sneezes with your elbow, disposable tissues or clothing, and wash and dry hands afterwards or use hand sanitizer.
* The vehicle should contain hand sanitizer containing at least 60 percent alcohol and hospital grade disinfectant surface wipes. It should also contain a container or bag to dispose of PPE if this is not provided at the point of exit.
* Ventilate the vehicle to the outside where possible (open windows if practical, don’t use ventilation on the recycle setting)
* During the journey, the driver and passenger should not go to supermarkets, shops, petrol stations or similar services over this time.
* Comply with [all relevant Ministry of Health COVID-19 guidelines](https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-information-specific-audiences).
* Where practicable, organise an entry and exit zone that excludes the general public from exposure to passengers.
* Clean the vehicle as soon as possible after use. Cleaners should wear a mask and gloves. They should wipe all flat surfaces and touched surfaces with hospital grade detergent/disinfectant. Cleaning wipes should be disposed of in an appropriate manner.
* High risk transport where a crew member may be symptomatic will be at the direction and advise of the medical officer of health or health protection officer.

**Appendix 2: Further information and resources**

The COVID-19 webpages are updated daily. You can find more information [here](https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus%20and%20https:/covid19.govt.nz).

Advice for airline crew [here.](https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-novel-coronavirus-information-specific-audiences/covid-19-novel-coronavirus-advice-airline-crew)

Advice on cleaning [here](https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-novel-coronavirus-information-specific-audiences/general-cleaning-information-covid-19).

Advice for hotel operators and staff [here](https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-novel-coronavirus-information-specific-audiences/covid-19-novel-coronavirus-information-hotels-and-hotel-staff).

Advice on personal protective measures [here](https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-novel-coronavirus-information-specific-audiences/covid-19-personal-protective-equipment-essential-workers/personal-protective-equipment-use-non-health-essential-workers).

Advice for travellers [here](https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-novel-coronavirus-information-specific-audiences/covid-19-novel-coronavirus-advice-travellers).

Advice on self-isolation [here](https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-novel-coronavirus-health-advice-general-public/covid-19-novel-coronavirus-self-isolation).

Advice on caring for yourself and others who have, or may have, COVID-19 at home [here](https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-novel-coronavirus-health-advice-general-public/caring-yourself-and-others-who-have-or-may-have-covid-19-home).

All of Government Factsheet for Welfare Support: information on what welfare support is available for people who may be self-isolating or are not sure what assistance may be is available [here](https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-novel-coronavirus-resources) or phone the 0800 Government Helpline on 0800 779 997 (9am–5pm, seven days/week). For health specific questions, please call Healthline directly on 0800 611 116 (24 hours/day, seven days/week).

Border advisories [here](https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-novel-coronavirus-information-specific-audiences/covid-19-resources-border-sector).

Border controls [here](https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-current-situation/covid-19-border-controls).

Contact details for District Health Board public health units [here](https://www.health.govt.nz/new-zealand-health-system/key-health-sector-organisations-and-people/public-health-units/public-health-unit-contacts).

Current case definition [here](https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-novel-coronavirus-information-specific-audiences/covid-19-novel-coronavirus-resources-health-professionals/case-definition-covid-19-infection).

Factsheets for close contacts with a confirmed case, close contacts of a suspected case and people who have been on an aircraft with an unwell person [here](https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-novel-coronavirus-health-advice-general-public/contact-tracing-covid-19).

General information about COVID-19 [here](https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-novel-coronavirus-health-advice-general-public).

Immigration requirements and border exceptions [here](https://www.immigration.govt.nz/about-us/covid-19/border-closures-and-exceptions).

Information for the border sector [here](https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-novel-coronavirus-information-specific-audiences/covid-19-resources-border-sector).

Public events and mass gatherings [here](https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-novel-coronavirus-information-specific-audiences/covid-19-advice-public-events-and-mass-gatherings).

Requesting an exception to enable essential workers to enter New Zealand [here](https://www.immigration.govt.nz/about-us/covid-19/border-closures-and-exceptions).

World Health Organization situation updates [here](https://www.who.int/health-topics/coronavirus%20and%20https:/www.who.int/csr/don/en).

World Health Organization guidance: Operational considerations for managing COVID-19 cases/outbreak on board ships [here](https://www.who.int/publications-detail/operational-considerations-for-managing-covid-19-cases-outbreak-on-board-ships).

1. Defined as a ship operated by or associated with a scientific programme or expedition of a contracting party to the Antarctic Treaty (defined in the Antarctica Act 1960). [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. The Order defines such ships as being used to catch fish or other living resources of the sea for profit or is recognised by the Director-General as being engaged in fisheries research. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Note: (a) does not apply if a person has particular physical or other needs that a medical officer of health or health protection officer determines would make it inappropriate for the person to undertake the medical test. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)