



Enquiries Michael Sneesby

Department of
Transport and Main Roads

28 March 2022

Dear Pilotage Entities, Peak Industry Bodies, and Workforce Representatives,

In August 2021, following transmission of COVID-19 from a ship to a marine pilot, Maritime Safety Queensland wrote to all marine pilotage entities requesting that twice weekly surveillance COVID-19 testing for marine pilots and transfer vessel crew commence on a voluntary basis.

This request was made at a time when there were extremely low rates of community transmission, and a smaller percentage of the eligible Queensland population that had obtained the COVID-19 vaccination.

Since then, the COVID-19 landscape in Queensland has shifted significantly. Approximately 90% of the eligible Queensland population have now received the prescribed doses of COVID-19 vaccine, and there is significant increase in community prevalence of COVID-19.

With this in mind, and in consultation with Queensland Health, I wish to advise that the voluntary twice weekly surveillance testing of marine pilots and transfer vessel crew may now cease.

Queensland Health's current advice is that marine pilots and transfer vessel crew should undergo COVID-19 testing if they develop COVID-19 symptoms. COVID-19 testing may include Rapid Antigen Test approved by the Therapeutic Goods Administration for use in Australia.

Marine pilots and transfer vessel crew should also continue to strictly comply with their COVID-safe plans, which should include use of personal protective equipment, including a face mask.

Marine pilots and transfer vessel crew are also strongly encouraged to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19.

While it is imperative that all COVID-safe precautions are taken while on board international trading ships to reduce risk of COVID-19 infection of marine pilots and transfer vessel crew, it is equally important that these measures are taken to reduce risk of onward transmission on board vessels and protect maritime crew. This is particularly important with current rates of COVID-19 community transmission throughout Queensland.

If any marine pilots or transfer vessel crew do develop COVID-19 symptoms, please ensure the individual isolates and a COVID-19 test is undertaken immediately. For further

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information on what do if you test positive to COVID-19, please visit [I have COVID-19 | Health and wellbeing | Queensland Government \(www.qld.gov.au\)](#).

Should you require any further information or wish to discuss further, please do not hesitate to contact Michael Sneesby (MSQ COVID-19 Liaison Officer) at msgcovid19@msq.qld.gov.au or on (04) 48 318 275. Alternatively, I am always able to be contacted directly.

Thank you again to all the marine pilots and transfer vessel crew for your ongoing efforts in ensuring the continuity of essential shipping and trade, while balancing the challenges and risks that COVID-19 presents. Thank you also for your ongoing commitment to protecting the health and safety of the Queensland community and maritime crew.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kelly Dillon', with a stylized, flowing script.

Kell Dillon

General Manager

Maritime Safety Queensland