Maritime Safety Queensland

4 May 2022

Maritime Crew Arriving from Overseas: COVID-19 requirements

Frequently Asked Questions

Are maritime crew arriving from overseas required to quarantine?

Maritime crew can enter Queensland from overseas regardless of vaccination status without the need to quarantine so long as they:

- do **not** have COVID-19 symptoms
- test negative within 24 hours of arriving
- test if any symptoms develop
- do not visit any vulnerable settings (hospitals, residential aged care facilities, disability accommodation, prisons and detention centres) for 7 days.

What testing requirements apply to maritime crew arriving from overseas?

International arrivals who have been outside of Australia in the last 7 days, including maritime crew, must take a

COVID-19 test within 24 hours of arriving. Until a negative test result is obtained, crew must travel as directly as practicable using a private vehicle, hire car, taxi, endorsed transport provider or ride share to a residence or accommodation (which can include their hotel or vessel) to quarantine. Public transport must not be used until a negative COVID-19 test result is received.

Is the Queensland Maritime Protocol still in effect?

No. The *Protocol for maritime crew members joining or signing off a vessel in Queensland* has been revoked.

Requirements for international maritime crew are now the same as for all other international travellers. All requirements within the *Requirements for International Arrivals Direction* must be complied with.

Does a Crew Changeover Checklist still need to be submitted for maritime crew?

No. The requirement for Crew Changeover Checklists has been removed for all crew, regardless of vaccination status. Maritime Safety Queensland (MSQ) endorsement of crew changes is no longer required.

Do maritime crew still need to complete the Queensland International Arrivals Registration?

No. A Queensland International Arrivals Registration is no longer required.

Can maritime crew voluntarily quarantine in government nominated accommodation?

No. Quarantine functionality within Government nominated accommodation will no longer be operational as of 6pm AEST 28 April 2022. As such, maritime crew will not be accepted for quarantine at government nominated accommodation. Private accommodation arrangements must be made.

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Do unvaccinated crew signing off vessels still need to complete 14 days at sea since last international port to avoid quarantine?

No. Maritime crew can enter Queensland from overseas regardless of vaccination status without the need to quarantine. Time at sea is no longer a consideration.

What evidence of a negative COVID-19 test is required?

Negative COVID-19 test results do not need to be submitted to MSQ or Queensland Health.

If a PCR test is undertaken, it is recommended that the paper-based or digital record of the PCR test result undertaken is kept.

If a Rapid Antigen Test is used, maritime crew may also wish to take a photo of their negative result as a record of their self-monitoring.

Can maritime crew use any Rapid Antigen Test?

Only Rapid Antigen Tests approved for use in Australia by the Therapeutic Goods Administration can be used. Further information is available at COVID-19 rapid antigen self-tests that are approved in Australia | Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA).

Do Endorsed Transport Providers still need to be used for transport of maritime crew?

On arrival from overseas, international maritime crew must undertake a COVID-19 test within 24 hours of arrival to Queensland. They must travel as directly as practicable to their residence, accommodation or vessel using a private vehicle, hire car, taxi, endorsed transport provider or ride share. They must not use public transport until a negative COVID-19 test result is received.

Can unvaccinated crew fly domestically?

If international maritime crew enter Queensland from a place outside Australia and transfer from the international terminal to the domestic terminal (staying within the confines of the airport) to travel on to another place in Queensland, you must take a COVID-19 test on arrival at your final destination. For example, if a traveller arrives from Singapore into Brisbane and transfers directly (without leaving the confines of the airport) to a flight to Townsville, they must take a COVID-19 test within 24 hours of arriving in Townsville.

You must transfer from an international terminal to domestic terminal (within the confines of the airport and adhering to mask wearing requirements) by an endorsed transport provider, taxi, ride share or an airport terminal transfer shuttle for your continuing flight within Queensland or another State or Territory.

If you are transferring to a flight to another State or Territory, you don't need to take a COVID-19 test in Queensland. You must comply with testing requirements in the State or Territory you are heading to, as long as you transfer from the international terminal to the domestic terminal within the confines of the airport and adhering to mask wearing requirements.

Please also check with the airline to confirm their flight requirements/vaccination policy.

Can maritime crew enter another Australian jurisdiction from overseas before travelling to Queensland to join a vessel?

Yes, however maritime crew must comply with any quarantine requirements of that jurisdiction of first arrival.

If the international maritime crew member undertakes a COVID-19 test in another State or Territory within 24 hours of arrival in Australia and received a negative test result, they do not have to undertake a COVID-19 test within 24 hours of arrival in Queensland.

Can maritime crew attend medical appointments?

Yes. Regardless of vaccination status, international maritime crew do not have to quarantine, providing they receive a negative COVID test (PCR or Rapid Antigen Test) within 24 hours of arrival. With this in mind, there is no longer a need

for maritime crew to seek approval from MSQ or Queensland Health for medical appointments. Shipping agents are responsible for making private arrangements for maritime crew medical appointments.

Please note that international arrivals are restricted from vulnerable settings (such as hospitals) for 7 days from arrival, regardless of vaccination status, unless in case of emergency.

If there is a medical emergency – call Triple Zero (000) immediately. The Requirements for International Arrivals Direction does not affect emergency medical treatment.

Can maritime crew take shore leave?

All maritime crew, regardless of vaccination status, are now eligible for shore leave under the Queensland Public Health Directions. Crew must undertake a COVID-19 tests (RAT or PCR) before disembarking, and remain on board the vessel until they receive a negative COVID-19 test result. All Federal Government requirements must also be complied with.

What if a maritime crew member tests positive to COVID-19?

On-signers who test positive **before joining** vessel

Maritime Crew who test positive to COVID-19 must not join their vessel until they are cleared of COVID-19.

All COVID positive persons must comply with the Isolation for Diagnosed Cases of COVID-19 and Management of Close Contacts Direction (No. 7). Under the Direction, COVID positive persons may isolate in their place of accommodation (which includes temporary accommodation, such as a hotel). If you need help with finding suitable accommodation, please call 134 COVID (13 42 68).

Further information about what to do if you have COVID-19 can be found at I have COVID-19 | Health and wellbeing | Queensland Government (www.qld.gov.au).

Off-signers who test positive **after disembarking** vessel

Any maritime crew who test positive to COVID-19 must comply with the Isolation for Diagnosed Cases of COVID-19 and Management of Close Contacts Direction (No. 7). Under the Direction, COVID positive persons may isolate in their place of accommodation (which includes temporary accommodation, such as a hotel or the crew member's vessel). If you need help with finding suitable accommodation, please call 134 COVID (13 42 68).

Off-signers testing positive to COVID-19 after disembarking the vessel may indicate a possible COVID-19 outbreak on board the vessel. It is important to note Federal Government requirements to report any illness on board vessels to the Department of Agriculture, Water and Environment (DAWE).

Queensland Health have published a Guideline for Management of COVID-19 onboard vessels in Queensland, however each situation is managed on a case by case basis. COVID-19 on board vessels must be managed in accordance with Queensland Health and Federal Government requirements and advice.

Further information can be found at: I have COVID-19 | Queensland Government.

Can maritime crew receive the COVID-19 vaccination?

Yes. All crew can now disembark the vessel and receive their COVID-19 vaccination ashore via usual channels. All requirements under the Requirements for International Arrivals Direction, including COVID-19 testing requirements (RAT or PCR) must be complied with. When deciding on where to receive the COVID-19 vaccination, it is important to note that international arrivals are restricted from visiting vulnerable settings (such as hospitals) for 7 days, regardless of vaccination status.

Options are also still available to arrange vaccination of maritime crew on board vessels via the Vaccine Administration Partners Program.