

Protocol for maritime crew members joining or signing off a vessel in Queensland

Version 3

Application

1. This is the protocol for maritime crew approved by the Chief Health Officer referred to in the *Self-quarantine for Persons Arriving in Queensland From Overseas Direction (No. 5)* and the *Border restrictions Direction (No. 15)* or their successors, unless otherwise revoked or amended. The Public Health Directions are made under s362B of the *Public Health Act 2005*.
2. The protocol applies to **maritime crew** who are required to operate or provide services to support the operation of a commercial vessel, research vessel or government vessel that is in Australian waters and is 50 metres or more in length; collectively referred to as a **vessel**. This protocol does not apply to cruise vessels, private vessels, super yachts or recreational vessels.
3. The protocol does not apply to vessels operated by the Australian Defence Force or Australian Border Force. Any persons, including **maritime crew** members, on these vessels will be subject to the requirements under the *Border restrictions Direction* or the *Self-quarantine for Persons Arriving in Queensland From Overseas Direction*.

Checklist

4. A Crew Changeover Checklist must be completed for each **vessel** where there are **maritime crew** joining or signing off a **vessel** in Queensland.
5. The completed Crew Changeover Checklist must be endorsed by the Regional Harbour Master prior to a crew changeover taking place.
6. The Crew Changeover Checklist is available on the [Maritime Safety Queensland website](#).

Queensland Border Declaration Pass

7. An endorsed Crew Changeover Checklist functions as a Queensland Border Declaration Pass for **maritime crew** who are entering Queensland to join or sign off a **vessel**.
8. **Maritime crew** entering Queensland who are not disembarking the **vessel** are **not** required to complete a Queensland Border Declaration Pass.
9. **Maritime crew** leaving quarantine for any of the reasons listed at 31 are **not** required to complete a Queensland Border Declaration Pass.
10. **Maritime crew** entering Queensland in all other circumstances where 7-9 do not apply, **are** required to complete a Queensland Border Declaration Pass.
11. The Queensland Border Declaration Pass is available at <https://www.qld.gov.au/border-pass/queensland-border-declaration-pass>

Maritime crew joining a vessel in Queensland

12. A **maritime crew** member entering Queensland to join a **vessel** in Queensland, will not be required to quarantine unless in the 14 days prior to entering Queensland they:



- a. have been overseas; or
 - b. have been in a **COVID-19 hotspot**; or
 - c. have had known contact with a person who is a confirmed case of COVID-19; or
 - d. have **symptoms consistent with COVID-19**.
13. If a **maritime crew** member satisfies any of 12a and 12b, they must quarantine in **government nominated accommodation** for 14 days prior to joining the **vessel** unless,
- a. they use pre-arranged, dedicated, privately chartered, socially distanced transport commencing in Queensland to transfer directly to their **vessel** in Queensland. If there is a time delay between arrival and joining the **vessel** they will be required to quarantine in **government nominated accommodation** and comply with the testing requirements at 17 to 20; and
 - b. during transit, interactions with the Queensland community are limited to the greatest extent possible; and
 - c. they wear a protective face mask and observe social distancing practices while in transit.
14. If a **maritime crew** member satisfies 12c and 12d, they must quarantine in **government nominated accommodation** for 14 days prior to joining the **vessel**, or until cleared to join a **vessel** by a local Public Health Unit or **Emergency Officer (Public Health)**.
15. A **maritime crew** member entering Australia from overseas and arriving in a jurisdiction other than Queensland, must quarantine for 14 days at the point of arrival before travelling to Queensland to join a **vessel**, unless an exemption has been granted by the Queensland Chief Health Officer.
- Note: A **maritime crew** member may be required to undertake a further period of 14 days quarantine in Queensland unless they meet the requirements of the Border restrictions Direction (No. 15) or its successors or unless amended or revoked.*
16. A **maritime crew** member who is a **confirmed case of COVID-19**, or is a **cleared case of COVID-19** is **not** permitted to enter Queensland without an exemption from the Queensland Chief Health Officer. An exemption can be applied for at: <https://www.health.qld.gov.au/system-governance/legislation/cho-public-health-directions-under-expanded-public-health-act-powers/border-restrictions/cho-exemption-request>.

COVID-19 testing for maritime crew joining a vessel in Queensland

17. If a **maritime crew** member is required to quarantine in **government nominated accommodation**, for any duration, prior to joining a **vessel** they must:
- a. be tested for COVID-19 in Queensland; and
 - b. receive a negative test result for COVID-19 from a Queensland testing provider.
18. A **maritime crew** member will **not** be permitted to leave quarantine to join a **vessel** in Queensland until they receive a negative COVID-19 test result from a test completed in Queensland. If a **maritime crew** member refuses a COVID-19 test, they must quarantine in accordance with 28 and 29 below.
19. All testing for COVID-19 in accordance with 17 must be arranged by Queensland Health.
20. All test results should be communicated to Maritime Safety Queensland as soon as practicable and no later than 24 hours after they have been received.

Maritime crew signing off a vessel in Queensland

21. A **maritime crew** member who signs off a **vessel** in Queensland must quarantine in a **nominated premises**.

22. Despite 21, a **maritime crew** member who is an Australian citizen or permanent resident, who signs off a vessel in Queensland, where that vessel has undertaken a **Queensland intrastate voyage** or **interstate voyage**, will not be required to quarantine unless in the preceding 14 days:
- they have been overseas as part of any other travel; or
 - they have been in a **COVID-19 hotspot** as part of any other travel; or
 - during the **interstate voyage** they disembarked the **vessel**, for any period of time, in a **COVID-19 hotspot**; or
 - they have had known contact with a person who is a confirmed case of COVID-19; or
 - they have **symptoms consistent with COVID-19**; or
 - a **maritime crew** member has signed on to the vessel from a **COVID-19 hotspot** where the on-signing **maritime crew** member has not completed 14 days of quarantine prior to on-signing the vessel; or
 - a **maritime crew** member on the **vessel** is a **confirmed case of COVID-19** or has **symptoms consistent with COVID-19**; or
 - a **maritime crew** member on the vessel is a foreign national arriving in Queensland from overseas or a COVID-19 hotspot who has **not** completed 14 days of mandatory government quarantine **prior** to joining the vessel.
23. A **maritime crew** member required to quarantine under 21 or 22, may disembark the **vessel** to:
- travel directly to **government nominated accommodation** to quarantine for 14 days; or
 - travel to an **approved airport**, by the most direct route practicable, to depart Australia (no domestic connecting flights) using pre-arranged, dedicated, privately chartered, socially distanced transport. If there is a time delay between disembarking the **vessel** and leaving Australia via an **approved airport** they will be required to quarantine in a **nominated premises**. During transit interactions with the Queensland community should be limited to the greatest extent possible, including when travelling from quarantine to an **approved airport**; or
 - travel to another **vessel** in Queensland by the most direct route practicable, where that **vessel** will be leaving Queensland, using pre-arranged, dedicated, privately chartered, socially distanced transport. If there is a time delay between disembarking the **vessel** and joining the next **vessel** in Queensland they will be required to quarantine in **government nominated accommodation** and comply with the testing requirements at 17 to 20. During transit interactions with the Queensland community should be limited to the greatest extent possible, including when travelling from quarantine to a **vessel**.
24. Despite 21 and 22, a **maritime crew** member who is signing-off a **vessel** that has not been overseas during its voyage may leave quarantine in accordance with the reasons outlined in the *Border restrictions Direction (No. 15)* or its successor/s. If there is a time delay between disembarking the **vessel** and leaving Queensland via an **approved airport** they will be required to quarantine in a **nominated premises**. During transit interactions with the Queensland community should be limited to the greatest extent possible, including when travelling from quarantine to an **approved airport**.
25. During transit the **maritime crew** member must wear a protective face mask and observe social distancing practices.
26. A **maritime crew** member who is a **confirmed case of COVID-19**, or is a **cleared case of COVID-19** is **not** permitted to enter Queensland without an exemption from the Queensland Chief Health Officer. An exemption can be applied for at: <https://www.health.qld.gov.au/system->

[governance/legislation/cho-public-health-directions-under-expanded-public-health-act-powers/border-restrictions/cho-exemption-request.](#)

Queensland residents who travel interstate to work as maritime crew

27. A **Queensland resident** who has travelled interstate to work as a **maritime crew** member is required to complete a General Declaration Pass for **Queensland residents**. A returning **Queensland resident** may be required to quarantine dependent on the requirements under the *Border restrictions Direction*.

*Note: a **Queensland resident** returning from working interstate is **not** a **specialist worker** performing an essential activity.*

Quarantine conditions

28. If a **maritime crew** member is required to quarantine in Queensland under this protocol or the *Border restrictions Direction* for 14 days or more:

- a. the **maritime crew** member will be directed by an **Emergency Officer (Public Health)** to quarantine at **government nominated accommodation** for 14 days.
- b. the **maritime crew** member is liable for the costs of the accommodation which may be recovered as a debt by the State.

*Note: If the quarantine period is going to be less than 14 days then the maritime crew member may quarantine in **nominated premises**.*

*Note: If the maritime crew member is not paying the invoice for the costs of the accommodation personally, it is the responsibility of the **maritime crew** member to give the invoice to the ship's agent or other person for prompt payment.*

29. A **maritime crew** member who quarantines in **government nominated accommodation** will be tested for COVID-19 in accordance with the Queensland Health testing regime. If a **maritime crew member** refuses a COVID-19 test when requested to do so by an **Emergency Officer (Public Health)** under a testing regime, then the **maritime crew** member will be required to quarantine for a further period of 10 days.

30. Despite the quarantine requirements under this protocol, a **maritime crew** member may leave quarantine, using pre-arranged, dedicated, privately chartered, socially distanced transport to travel directly to:

- a. an **approved airport** to depart Australia (no domestic connecting flights); or
- b. a **vessel**, to join the **vessel** in Queensland for an intended crew changeover under this protocol provided they meet the testing requirements in 17 to 20.

Reasons to leave quarantine

31. A **maritime crew** member who is in quarantine may leave the quarantine location for the following purposes:

- a. to obtain essential medical care or medical supplies, where alternative delivery arrangements are not reasonably practicable; or
- b. to avoid injury or illness, or escape a risk of harm; or
- c. in the event of an emergency situation; or

- d. to conduct essential **vessel** functions that cannot be carried out by a non-quarantined **maritime crew** member.
32. A **maritime crew** member who leaves quarantine for any of these purposes must:
- a. wear personal protective equipment, except in the event of an emergency situation; and
 - b. use private transport, including a taxi or rideshare; and
 - c. restrict interactions with the Queensland community, if any.

Transit

33. A **maritime crew** member who enters Queensland to join or disembark a **vessel** under this protocol, **must** wear a protective face mask and observe social distancing practices while in transit.
34. A **maritime crew** member who fails to wear a protective face mask when transiting under this protocol may be deemed to be operating outside of the protocol and directed to **government nominated accommodation** to complete 14 days of quarantine prior to joining the **vessel**.

Shore leave

35. A **maritime crew** member disembarking a **vessel** in Queensland for shore leave must comply with all requirements for a **maritime crew** member signing-off a **vessel** outlined in 21 to 25 above.

Emergency referral and retrieval

36. None of the requirements outlined in this protocol impact on emergency referral and retrieval of **maritime crew**.

Definitions

37. **Approved airport** has the same meaning as *Border Restrictions Direction (No. 15)* or its successor.
38. **Cleared case of COVID-19** means a person who was a confirmed case of COVID-19 and has been given a letter or other written evidence from a doctor or health authority of the jurisdiction where they were diagnosed that they are cleared of COVID-19.
39. **Close contact** of a person is another person with whom they were:
- a. within an enclosed space for a period of 2 hours or longer; or
 - b. within 1.5 metres of the other person for a period of 15 minutes or longer.
40. **Confirmed case of COVID-19** means a person who has been clinically diagnosed with COVID-19 who is not a cleared case.
41. **COVID-19 hotspot** means a particular area of Australia decided by the Chief Health Officer and published on the Queensland Health website (<https://www.qld.gov.au/health/conditions/health-alerts/coronavirus-covid-19/current-status/hotspots-covid-19>).
42. **Emergency Officer (Public Health)** means an emergency officer appointed under the *Public Health Act 2005*.
- Note: emergency officers appointed under the Public Health Act 2005 includes a number of public service officers such as public health officers, police, fire and emergency services.*
43. **Government nominated accommodation** means a **nominated premises** at which the person is directed to quarantine at their own expense in accordance with Chapter 8, Part 7AA of the *Public Health Act 2005*.

44. **Interstate voyage** means an interstate voyage as defined under the *Maritime Transport and Offshore Facilities Security Act 2003 (Cth)*.
45. **Maritime crew** means anyone required to be part of a crew operating or providing services to support the operation of a **vessel**, including supernumeraries.
46. **Nominated Premises**
- a place as directed by an **Emergency Officer (Public Health)**; or
 - if no direction is given by an emergency officer, a place where quarantine can be observed, this may include a **vessel**.
- Note: A person may be directed by an **Emergency Officer (Public Health)** to quarantine at **government-nominated accommodation** at their own expense in accordance with section 362MC of the Public Health Act 2005.*
47. **Queensland intrastate voyage** means a voyage beginning or ending in Queensland waters, other than an interstate voyage or overseas voyage as defined under the *Transport Operations (Marine Safety) Act 1994*.
48. **Queensland resident** is a person whose primary place of residence is in Queensland.
49. **Specialist worker** means a person specified in Schedule 1 of the *Border restrictions Direction (No. 15)* or its successor.
50. **Symptoms consistent with COVID-19** means fever or history of fever, symptoms of acute respiratory infection (cough, shortness of breath, sore throat), loss of smell, loss of taste, runny nose, diarrhoea, nausea, vomiting, or fatigue
51. **Vessel** means a commercial vessel, research vessel or government vessel that is in Australian waters and is 50 metres or more in length. It does not apply to cruise vessels, private vessels, super yachts or recreational vessels.

Notes

Cruise ships are subject to the Restricting cruise ships from entering *Queensland waters Direction (No. 2)* or its successor and to the *Biosecurity (Human Biosecurity Emergency) (Human Coronavirus with Pandemic Potential) (Emergency Requirements) Determination 2020 (Cth)*.

Maritime vessels are subject to any General Manager Maritime Safety Queensland Directions issued under the *Transport Operations (Marine Safety) Act 1994* which may impose time-based arrival restrictions.

After arriving in Queensland from interstate or overseas and completing any necessary quarantine requirements, a marine pilot is not subject to the Protocol while conducting vessel movements in and out of Queensland waters.

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Queensland Health

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