



INFORMATION UPDATE: COVID-19 AND TASMANIAN PORTS

Issued: 20 March 2020

As countries across the world continue to be challenged with the unfolding COVID-19 pandemic, TasPorts is continuing to take measures to ensure Tasmanian ports remain fully operational to facilitate trade for the benefit of all Tasmanians. We believe that we all have a shared responsibility to take action in response to the virus with a primary focus on ensuring the health and safety of people.

The following provides some information to frequently asked questions associated with the impacts of COVID-19. TasPorts will continue to assess these measures and communicate changes as they arise.

WILL PORTS REMAIN OPEN?

TasPorts will continue to work to ensure that ports remain open and fully operational. TasPorts has implemented a range of business continuity arrangements to support this.

WHAT ARE THE IMPACTS TO VESSELS?

In line with Australian and State Government border restrictions, TasPorts has implemented a 14 day exclusion period for all international vessels where the vessels have an intended arrival date in Tasmania of less than 14 days from their last port of call before arriving in Australia. This also applies to vessels where international crew have joined and been on board for less than 14 days from their last port of call.

TasPorts understands that to ensure the continuation of trade in Tasmania there may be circumstances where it is appropriate to exempt certain vessels.

Where vessels originate from New Zealand or Pacific Region with short transit times to Tasmania, resulting in long anchorage to meet the 14 day time frame, TasPorts will assess on a case-by-case basis and make a determination if an exemption will be applied to enable entry within the 14 days. TasPorts will also provide instructions to the vessel on any additional control requirements associated with the exemption.

WHAT IS THE IMPACT TO CREW?

TasPorts requires all crew arriving from international destinations to have completed a 14 day self-isolation period in line with the Australian Government self-isolation requirements. Exceptions to these restrictions will only be applied in exceptional circumstances.

ARE CREW ALLOWED OFF THE VESSEL WHEN IN PORT?

Crew from international vessels arriving in Tasmania are required to remain on-board when in port regardless of the time since last departing a country outside of Australia. If a crew member is required to disembark for critical vessel duties alongside, then they may do so but are required to practice good hand hygiene, wear protective gear and minimise their contact with port staff. At a minimum, protective gear should include a face mask, glasses and gloves.

WHAT IS HAPPENING IN THE WORKPLACE TO HELP PROTECT STAFF AND OTHERS?

TasPorts has implemented a range of measures across its operations designed to reduce the spread and impact of the virus. These include social distancing, enhanced sanitising and cleaning practices (offices, cars, vessels and access points), segregated rostering and implementing strict controls around visitors and vessels.

All TasPorts front line operational staff have been issued with personal PPE Packs applicable to operational needs and sanitary and cleaning instructions to compliment the use of the equipment. At a minimum, these packs consist of hand sanitising liquid, face masks, gloves, safety glasses and where available wet wipes.

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WHAT ARRANGEMENTS SHOULD PORT USERS BE PUTTING IN PLACE?

All port users should be implementing robust sanitising and site cleaning practices to reduce the spread of the virus. It is recommended that all companies that have employees that operate in the ports ensure their front line employees have sufficient sanitisation and PPE equipment, and robust sanitary practices.

It is also requested that companies where possible implement social distancing practices for employees and ensure that only those persons essential to performance of operational roles within the port, enter the port.

Further, to align company employee practices across all port users, if not already implemented, that companies implement practices contained at the end of this document.

WHAT IS THE PROCESS FOR THE DISPOSAL OF USED SANITARY AND CLEANING ITEMS AT PORTS?

TasPorts is working to have additional bins around the ports for the disposal of sanitising and cleaning items. This will include recycle bins for used plastics and dedicated bins for tissues, wipes, masks and gloves. TasPorts aims to have these bins in place in the coming days.

I CAN'T SOURCE CLEANING AND SANITISING PRODUCTS, WHAT DO I DO?

Cleaning and sanitising supplies are in short supply across Australia and TasPorts has also experienced difficulty sourcing stocks. However, TasPorts is working with the Australian Government and product suppliers for the procurement, where possible, of bulk items including sanitising liquid, disposable wipes, hand wash, face masks, gloves and safety glasses.

If you are concerned that you are going to run out of supplies for your front line workers, in particular masks, gloves and sanitising gel, TasPorts will seek to assist in the supply of these items where possible. Please note, priority will be given to those workers that interface with international vessels and crew in the first instance, and or those that are based in the port.

Should you wish to discuss your current stock shortage concerns, ongoing bulk equipment procurement opportunities or alignment of sanitary and cleaning practices with TasPorts, please contact Anna Flower, General Manager Risk & Resilience at Anna.Flower@tasports.com.au or mobile 0419 987 982.

WHERE TO FROM HERE?

Responding to the changes and impacts of the coronavirus needs to remain dynamic and current. TasPorts will continue to prioritise the safety and wellbeing of people, and continue to work with both the Commonwealth and State Governments to ensure all measures implemented are applicable to the most current information available.

WHERE IS THE BEST PLACE TO SOURCE INFORMATION ABOUT COVID-19?

The most current information from Government can be found on the following links:

- The Department of Health:
<https://www.health.gov.au/resources/collections/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-resources>
- Border Force:
<https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/news-media/current-alerts/novel-coronavirus>

TasPorts will provide updated information and links on its website (tasports.com.au) related to COVID-19 and will issue out communications to you in the event impacts escalate which will impact the operations of ports.

WHAT CAN WE DO TO HELP REDUCE THE SPREAD IN THE PORTS?

HOW DOES THE VIRUS SPREAD?

Information from the Department of Health is that the virus most likely spreads through:

- Close contact with an infectious person.
- Contact with droplets from an infected person's uncovered cough or sneeze (if you are within 1.5 metres or two steps of an infected person).
- Touching objects or surfaces (like doorknobs, sink taps and tables) that have a cough or sneeze droplets from an infected person, and then touching your face, especially the mouth, nose or eyes.

WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS?

Symptoms range from mild illness to pneumonia. Symptoms include fever, flu-like symptoms such as coughing, sore throat and fatigue, and shortness of breath. People with severe illness may have difficulty breathing, which is a sign of pneumonia and requires immediate medical attention.

WASHING OF HANDS

- Wash your hands thoroughly with soap and warm water for a minimum of 20 seconds every time before you enter or leave the workplace and throughout the day as often as possible. Dry your hands after washing and dispose the paper towel immediately.
- Where washing facilities are not available prior to coming into the workplace, utilise hand sanitiser and then immediately wash your hands when you have entered the workplace. **Remember hand sanitiser is not a substitute for washing hands and is only a temporary solution that should only be used in the event you cannot access wash facilities, the primary method of cleaning and protecting your hands should be washing them.**

OPENING OF DOORS

- Where possible, use a tissue or similar when opening doors if needing to grab the door handle or knob. Place the tissue in the bin immediately after.

CLEANING OF DESKS, VEHICLES AND COMMON USER AREAS

- Use a wet wipe/or cleaning solution and a dry wipe to clean down your desk, phone, keyboard and all surfaces at your desk you touch during the day. Do this at the start and end of your day / shift as a minimum practice.
- Ensure all common touchpoints in the vehicles and within offices are wiped regularly and cleaned well at the end of each day if not regularly during the day or shift.

BASIC CONSIDERATIONS

- Use a tissue (or the crook of your elbow if a tissue is not readily available) to cover your mouth and nose when you cough or sneeze, then putting the tissue in the rubbish
- Avoid touching your face if your hands are not clean.
- Keep two steps or 1.5m from others where reasonably practicable, when you are out in public and in operational environments.
- Facemasks – advice is that if you are well you do not need to wear a facemask to protect yourself in the community, however it is recommended those front line workers working closely with international vessel crew wear facemasks as a precautionary measure when boarding or interacting with crew.
- If you are feeling unwell with flu like symptoms or caring for someone with flu like symptoms then remain at home, utilising a facemask where available is recommended as a precautionary measure until such time as you confirm you do not have the virus.
- Once you have utilised a facemask, please put it in the bin, it is not recommended you reuse these.