

NOTICE TO INDUSTRY

Notice Number: NTI 12
Date issued: June 3, 2021
District: All

Subject: APA Mitigation Measures to Protect Stakeholders for COVID-19

As we are into the third wave of the COVID-19 Pandemic and we are seeing the presence of the more transmissible variants, the Atlantic Pilotage Authority (APA) is requesting that all vessels entering Atlantic Canadian Waters implement sanitation and protection procedures to ensure COVID-19 risks to pilots boarding are mitigated. These measures have been implemented by all our employees and the APA would like to thank our stakeholders for their effort and cooperation to ensure continuity in the marine industry.

To ensure continuity, the APA has also implemented many internal measures to ensure that risks to the crew onboard stakeholder vessels, as well for our pilots, would be mitigated and the essential shipping of goods and services would continue uninterrupted. As pilotage has been deemed an essential service, along with other marine trades, we all must take measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19 in the industry and ensure business continuity.

The measures the APA has enacted are listed below:

Preventative Measures:

- All pilots and crews that have travelled to any restricted areas in the last 14 days are required to self isolate prior to re-entering the workforce.
- Pilots and crew are required to wear medical grade masks on board the pilot boat and vessels.
- Pilots and crew are required to complete a daily COVID Screening Questionnaire and confirm 'Fit for Work'. Additionally, pilots and crew are to self monitor and report any symptoms to the APA prior to being assigned to a vessel.
- Where taxi services are utilized, the APA is ensuring they follow proper sanitation and PPE protocol and whenever possible the taxis are to have barriers in place.
- Collaboration with stakeholders in all ports to ensure security protocols are conducive to mitigating health risks.
- Vaccination of employees is well under way.
- COVID testing of pilots is done with guidance and assessment from Public Health and with the assistance of 3rd party health professionals when required.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE):

- PPE (masks, gloves and safety glasses) and hand sanitizer has been issued to all pilots and pilot boats to ensure supplies are readily accessible as required.
- The APA continues to collaborate with our federal partners to ensure the latest recommended PPE equipment is available and utilized by our employees.
- The APA is in close contact with Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC), local Public Health, and health professionals to ensure the pilots and crews have the correct PPE, know the correct procedure for use, and proper disposal.
- Employees are following each stakeholders Policies and Procedures for COVID-19 when onboard the various vessels and entering any terminals for an assignment.

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Pilot Boats:

- APA boat crews are thoroughly cleaning and disinfecting the Pilot Boats surfaces following each assignment.
- We have reduced the number of pilots being transported on our boats to allow for physical distancing.
- If required in a busy port, a second boat will be dispatched to reduce delays due to these measures and appreciate the support and understanding of industry in this endeavour.
- We have reduced extra personnel attending the pilot boats to essential maintenance contractors only and these are screened to ensure they do not pose an additional risk.

Offices:

- APA administration staff are required to complete a daily COVID Screening Questionnaire, work from home when possible, maintain physical distancing, and follow all provincial public health protocols.
- APA Dispatch continues to work from our office with reduced exposure due to the above measure.

Onboard Stakeholder Vessels/at Terminals:

- APA protocols include social distancing, reduced interaction with non-essential crew members and wearing a medical grade mask and PPE. We encourage stakeholders to provide the APA with any additional protocols onboard when ordering a pilot.
- APA Pilots have been instructed on PPE usage as per PHAC recommendations. If the requirement of the vessel differs from the above recommendations the APA protocols will be followed.
- Please keep in mind that to safely conduct the vessel it is essential that Pilots have access to various navigational equipment on the bridge. Equipment such as RADAR, ECDIS consoles, ROT indicators etc. are often redundant on many vessels. Best practice would be to have the Pilot use one and the vessel crew use the other; 1. to avoid cross contamination; 2. better monitor the vessels position through independent means.

Until Health Canada declares this matter to no longer be an imminent concern, this protocol will remain in place and we ask our stakeholders for your cooperation to ensure the health and safety of our personnel and the greater community. A notice will be posted when the temporary protocol is no longer required.

Thank you for your assistance and understanding. If there are any questions or concerns with the contents of this Notice, please contact the Operations Department of the APA at operations@atlanticpilotage.com.