



## **NOTICE TO MARINERS NO. 5/20**

### **PILOT EMBARKATION ADDITIONAL PROCEDURES**

Following the outbreak of the coronavirus COVID-19, the UK Department for Transport, in consultation with Public Health England, has issued updates on the spread of the virus and guidelines ([UK Gov Guidance for shipping and sea ports on coronavirus\(COVID-19\)](#)) for the steps necessary steps to prevent the spread of the virus. Further useful advice for ship operators can be found at [Advice for ship operators for preparedness and response to the outbreak of COVID-19](#).

In support of those guidelines, Gloucester Harbour Trustees has introduced the following Pilot Embarkation Additional Procedure for the embarkation of pilots and subsequent vessel transit.

This Pilot Embarkation Additional Procedure applies to all vessels:

- (a) arriving from ports in a country in respect of which the UK Government has issued a virus alert
- (b) arriving from countries for which there is currently no virus alert, but which has a crew member on board who was in a country subject to a virus alert within 14 days prior to the date of proposed pilot embarkation;
- (c) highlighted by the local Port Health Authority, following the submission of a Maritime Declaration of Health (which is mandatory before embarkation of a pilot), as having reported a suspected COVID-19 case on board and/or having taken the precautionary measure of isolating a potentially affected crew member(s).

Responsibility for carrying out the following Pilot Embarkation Additional Procedure rests with the vessel's master assisted by the shipowner and local ship agent as appropriate.

#### **Pilot Embarkation Additional Procedure**

- All vessels must have submitted the required Maritime Declaration of Health to the local Port Heath Authority via their local agent.
- The embarking pilot will provide a self-certifying Pilot Medical Declaration\* to the ship agent prior to embarkation.

- Where possible, one hour before the pilot embarkation time, non-essential crew should remain clear of the designated route from the pilot embarkation point (either pilot ladder, accommodation ladder etc.) to the wheelhouse, especially where the route is within enclosed spaces.
- Immediately prior to pilot embarkation, all surfaces and equipment in the wheelhouse, or on the bridge wings, that the pilot may touch must be cleaned with a suitable cleaning solution.
- The wheelhouse, where possible, should remain well ventilated via the opening of external doors or windows.
- Where possible, the route from the embarkation point to the wheelhouse should via the open deck, as opposed to within enclosed spaces.
- The wheelhouse should be cleared of all crew not essential to the navigation of the vessel. Crew members present are advised wear a protective mask and rubber gloves.
- Visits to the wheelhouse which are necessary for vessel operations should be made externally.
- Unless necessary for the safety of the pilot (i.e. during the embarkation process), crew or vessel, the pilot and crew should remain at least 2m apart.
- Similar precautions must be taken during disembarkation of the pilot either ashore or to the pilot launch.

Vessels not required to follow this Pilot Embarkation Special Procedure may elect to do so, in which case this must be advised at the time of placing the order for a pilot so that the assigned pilot may provide their Pilot Medical Declaration\*.

Owners, Agents and Charterers should ensure that the contents of this Notice are made known to the Masters or persons in charge of their vessels or craft.

M Johnson  
Harbourmaster/Marine Officer

20 March 2020.

\* A self-certified Pilot Medical Declaration will typically include confirmation that the pilot has not, to the best of his/her knowledge, been in contact with any sick animal or person, or have any symptoms which might be indicative of an infectious disease.