

# UNITED KINGDOM MARITIME PILOTS' ASSOCIATION

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To: ALL UKMPA MEMBERS

Circular 6/2020  
25<sup>th</sup> February 2020

Dear Colleague,

## **Novel Coronavirus (Covid-19) - Update**

We have been made aware of a potential outbreak onboard a vessel calling at Ipswich and Leith. The vessel had a recent crew change in a NW European port and three crew members are reported to be unwell with respiratory issues. The pilot embarking the vessel was unaware of any illness on board and has since self-isolated at home.

UK Port Health Authorities have implemented some enhanced screening measures such as requesting Maritime Declarations of Health from vessels that have called at Chinese ports. However, whilst this approach provides a level of active surveillance, we believe that it does not adequately reflect the risk to Pilots and other port personnel from vessels which may have undertaken crew changes from affected areas within the incubation period of 14 days.

The UKMPA is in urgent discussions with the Department for Transport (DfT), the MCA and Port Health Authorities.

Pilot representatives are recommended to contact their respective Harbour Authorities in order to review risk assessments. It may be beneficial for Harbour Authorities to obtain expanded declarations from vessels such as crew lists with new joiners highlighted, their country of origin, date of embarkation, and if any illness has been reported; and make these available to Pilots.

Pilot representatives are also recommended to agree plans with their Harbour Authorities on the measures to be taken if Pilots are required to embark a vessel with suspected outbreaks on board.

The British Ports Association have compiled a briefing note for UK Ports, this is available in the member circulars section of the website. Further updates will be provided as soon as possible.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mike Morris', is written over a light blue rectangular background.

Mike Morris  
Chairman