



COVID-19 detected on a vessel

Advice for port workers

- **The best way to protect you and your family from catching COVID-19 is to practise hand hygiene and physical distancing, and wear a mask, while onboard all international vessels.**
- **You should get vaccinated against COVID-19.**
- **You should follow the advice of Public Health if a positive COVID-19 case is identified onboard an international vessel.**

All crew from international vessels should be considered to pose a risk of COVID-19, regardless of time at sea. People may be infected with COVID-19 and not become unwell (asymptomatic). If you are an on-board worker, you need to follow the Exposed On-Board Worker Directions when you go on board international vessels. Useful information is available at https://ww2.health.wa.gov.au/Articles/A_E/Coronavirus/COVID19-information-for-business-and-industry under 'maritime'.

Frequently asked questions

<p>I went on board a vessel when a known COVID case was on board, what do I need to do?</p>	<p>If you were on board for less than 12 hours, maintained physical distance from the crew, practised regular hand hygiene, and wore a mask, you can continue working. You may be contacted by public health to ask you about your time on board.</p>
<p>I have been with someone who has been identified as a contact of a COVID case, what do I need to do?</p>	<p>A contact of a case is only a risk to you if that person becomes a case and you were interacting with them when they were infectious. You can continue to work and monitor for symptoms. You will be contacted by public health if there is any identified risk.</p>
<p>I used the same lunch room / toilets as someone identified as a contact, what do I need to do?</p>	<p>You are only at risk if the person identified as a contact becomes a case and they used the lunch room/toilets when they were infectious. You can continue to work and monitor for symptoms. You will be contacted by public health if there is any identified risk.</p>
<p>How is COVID-19 spread?</p>	<p>COVID-19 is a disease caused by a virus like the common-cold and it can be spread in three main ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breathing in air, containing the virus, after an infected person has breathed out. • Absorbing droplets, containing the virus, when they land on your eyes, nose, or mouth, after a person sneezes or coughs. • Touching a surface contaminated with virus and then touching eyes, nose or mouth.

How long does it take to get infected with COVID-19 after you have been exposed to the virus?	<p>People can become infected and pass on the virus anytime from between 1 and 14 days after being exposed to the virus, even if they never develop symptoms.</p> <p>However, most people develop symptoms and become unwell five or six days after being exposed to the virus.</p>
If I get tested immediately after I have been exposed to the virus, does a negative test mean I am safe?	If you have been exposed to the virus, it is important to monitor for symptoms for 14 days after the exposure even if your test is negative. If you are advised by Public Health officials that you are a primary or secondary close contact, you will need to self-quarantine and follow the advice provided.
If I develop symptoms, what should I do?	If you develop symptoms, you should get tested. You can also call 13 COVID (13 26843) for advice.
How can I keep safe when I go on a vessel that might have COVID-19 on board?	<p>You can keep safe by following the basic principles for prevention COVID-19:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain physical distance • Practise regular hand hygiene (hand washing or alcohol rub) • Wear the correct personal protective equipment (a face mask) • Implement infection control practices if you are required to take equipment onboard to carry out works • If you have any symptoms, get tested, stay home and call 13 COVID (13 26843) • Get vaccinated

****All port workers who interact with international vessels can self-present to a WA Public COVID Clinic for weekly testing under the *Detect Borders* program****

*****All port workers are eligible for vaccination; see <https://rollup.wa.gov.au/> for information and to make a booking*****

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This document can be made available in alternative formats on request for a person with disability.

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