



MEDIA RELEASE
March 17, 2020

COVID-19 Message to our Customers and Stakeholders

(Windsor, Ontario)

The spread of the COVID-19 virus is changing rapidly in Canada and globally. Just like you, we are monitoring new developments regarding COVID-19 closely.

For the Windsor Port Authority, ensuring the health and well-being of Canadians, port employees, customers, and seafarers who transit through ports is the top priority. As such, we are working closely with the federal government and the Public Health Agency of Canada to develop and adopt government-wide practices to help protect Canadians and visitors alike. The important thing right now is making sure we slow down the spread of COVID-19 in Canada. We support the government's efforts and are working hard to do our part. We take direction from the Public Health Agency of Canada on health-related matters, and Transport Canada on marine operations. We will continue to act appropriately as the situation evolves.

What are the symptoms of COVID-19?

Symptoms of COVID-19 include fever, cough, sore throat, fatigue and shortness of breath. Difficulty breathing is a sign of possible pneumonia that requires immediate medical attention. Although COVID-19 is a new and emerging respiratory virus, we know that most people with common human coronavirus illnesses will recover on their own. However, your risk of severe illness may be higher if you have a weakened immune system, in particular for older adults or people with chronic diseases (for example, diabetes, cancer, heart, renal or chronic lung disease). For individuals at a higher risk, it is important to take actions to reduce the risk of getting sick by taking extra measures to put distance between yourself and other people, take everyday precautions including good hand hygiene and avoiding others who are sick, ensuring that medications are renewed and up-to-date, and having a plan in the event of an illness, including regular check-ins with friends, and family members.

What measures has Port Windsor taken?

We are committed to ensuring ongoing operations at Port Windsor for the 14 terminals that employ more than 800 people every day, and the 1400 others employed as a result of the port's operations. We will balance these considerations against the health and safety of staff, port workers, and the community.

- We will continue to operate and provide service to customers and stakeholders through email, phone and tele-conference (all staff will tele-work from home until March 30 to increase social distancing).
- We have shifted all March Board and Committee meetings to e-meetings utilizing new technology recently implemented in late 2019.
- The Windsor Port Authority is suspending all interprovincial and international business travel for employees.
- We have also increased cleaning efforts throughout the Windsor Port Authority office, for when staff will be present. Cleaning staff are focusing additional attention on high-frequency touch points like door handles, hand railings and washrooms. Our cleaning contractors assure us that they are using the highest-grade commercial disinfectants and sanitizers.
- We continue to review practices in regards to foreign flagged commercial vessels which may be serviced by members of the Mission to Seafarers. Transport Canada and Public Health Canada has recommended that contact to crew on foreign flagged vessels be restricted to only essential business conduct.

Ships Arriving to Port

The Windsor Port Authority is in direct contact with Transport Canada (TC) and Public Health Canada (PHC) regarding response protocols for vessels with ill persons aboard coming to docks in Canada.

Domestic Ships

- Guidance for reporting of suspected symptoms of crew members on board vessels remain the same, except that domestic shipping companies will be expected to report to Transport Canada Marine Security and Safety, as well as provincial and local public health agencies where they are sailing at the time.
- If a vessel or crew member takes ill, TC would be notified by PHC. TC would then notify the Port that a ship is in port at a location and a crew member has tested positive. PHC will take the lead relative to disposition of the crew member or quarantine of a vessel. At this point, PHC could direct a vessel quarantine.
- Despite the low passenger volume on Great Lakes Cruise ships (less than 500), the industry is anticipating that the Great Lakes season will be delayed.
- There is no Federal direction relative to dinner cruises, like the Macassa Bay. It will be up to the local Health Units to provide direction to those vessels.

Foreign Ships

- All ships from foreign countries must report to TC 96-hours before entering Canadian waters. Once TC receives the report, they confirm the health status of the crew with the master/captain. Reports are shared with the Public Health Agency of Canada for immediate action.

- Any time after the 96-hour pre-arrival information report, the ship must immediately report any changes to TC. If symptoms are reported, a Public Health Agency of Canada Quarantine Officer will speak to the master/captain and crew, to assess symptoms and may require public health measures. For example, the crew may be asked to isolate themselves, wear a mask, or seek medical care. The Public Health Agency of Canada will report back to TC.

We will continue to communicate throughout this situation and provide updates when warranted.

Please initiate contact with Windsor Port Authority via email. Best contact can be found in the list provided below.

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For the latest local information on COVID-19, please visit wechu.org/coronavirus. COVID-19 information and advice is also available through the Government of Canada website (www.canada.ca).