

Maritime Safety Queensland

28 January 2022

Maritime Protocol – Frequently Asked Questions

Who does the Maritime Protocol apply to?

Maritime crew (including supernumeraries) on board commercial vessels 50 metres or more in length, not including private vessels, superyachts or cruise ships, who have been overseas in the previous 14 days.

The Maritime Protocol does not apply to domestic crew who have not been overseas in the previous 14 days. All Queensland Public Health Directions must continue to be complied with.

Does a Crew Changeover Checklist need to be submitted for all maritime crew?

A Crew Changeover Checklist is ONLY required for unvaccinated crew, submitted to the Regional Harbour Master prior to the crew change taking place.

A Crew Changeover Checklist is not required for fully vaccinated maritime crew.

The list of Australian recognised COVID-19 vaccines can be found at [International COVID-19 vaccines recognised by Australia | Therapeutic Goods Administration \(TGA\)](#).

What does fully vaccinated mean?

Fully vaccinated means a person who is 16 years of age or older who has received at least the prescribed number of doses of a COVID-19 vaccine that is approved for use in Australia by the Therapeutic Goods Administration, or endorsed by WHO-COVAX, and it has been 7 days since the final dose.

Further information about Australian recognised COVID-19 vaccines can be found at [International COVID-19 vaccines recognised by Australia | Therapeutic Goods Administration \(TGA\)](#).

Any person who is not fully vaccinated is considered to be unvaccinated.

Do maritime crew still need to complete the Queensland International Arrivals Registration?

No. A Queensland International Arrivals Registration is no longer required.

Do fully vaccinated maritime crew need to quarantine when entering Queensland to join a vessel?

Quarantine at government nominated accommodation is no longer required for fully vaccinated maritime crew. Fully vaccinated maritime crew must take a COVID-19 test in the first 24 hours of arrival to Queensland and self-isolate on the vessel or at their accommodation until a negative result.

The list of Australian recognised COVID-19 vaccines can be found at [International COVID-19 vaccines recognised by Australia | Therapeutic Goods Administration \(TGA\)](#).

Can fully vaccinated maritime crew voluntarily quarantine in government nominated accommodation?

No. Fully vaccinated maritime crew will not be accepted for quarantine at government nominated accommodation. Private accommodation arrangements must be made.

Will Maritime Safety Queensland (MSQ) provide Rapid Antigen Tests for maritime crew?

It is the responsibility of each individual or crew managing entity to ensure compliance with COVID-19 testing requirements. Rapid Antigen Test kits must be independently sourced, at own expense. Further information about Rapid Antigen Test for COVID-19 in Queensland can be found at [Rapid Antigen Test \(RAT\) for COVID-19 in Queensland | Health and wellbeing | Queensland Government \(www.qld.gov.au\)](#).

Do unvaccinated maritime crew need to quarantine when entering Queensland to join a vessel?

Yes. An unvaccinated maritime crew member who has been overseas in the previous 14 days must quarantine at government nominated accommodation for 14 days, or until they join a vessel or depart Australia by air. Any transport to or from a ship during the 14-day quarantine period must be via endorsed transport provider. The Regional Harbour Master must have endorsed the Crew Changeover Checklist prior to the crew change taking place.

What evidence of a negative COVID-19 test is required?

It is recommended that the paper-based or digital record of a PCR test result undertaken is kept.

If a Rapid Antigen Test is used, maritime crew may also wish to take a photo of their negative result as a record of their self-monitoring.

Negative COVID-19 test results do not need to be submitted to MSQ or Queensland Health.

Can maritime crew use any Rapid Antigen Test?

Only Rapid Antigen Tests approved for use in Australia by the Therapeutic Goods Administration can be used. Further information is available at [COVID-19 rapid antigen self-tests that are approved in Australia | Therapeutic Goods Administration \(TGA\)](#)

Who arranges transport of unvaccinated maritime crew?

Shipping agents continue to be responsible for arranging transport to and from the airport, quarantine hotel and vessel, using an endorsed transport provider.

Can unvaccinated maritime crew enter another Australian jurisdiction from overseas before travelling to Queensland to join a vessel?

Yes. However, the unvaccinated maritime crew member must complete the mandatory government quarantine in that Australian jurisdiction prior to entering Queensland.

If that Australian jurisdiction's mandatory quarantine period is less than 14 days, the crew member must complete any remaining balance of time in Queensland, which can include on board a vessel.

Do fully vaccinated maritime crew need to quarantine when signing off a vessel in Queensland?

No. Quarantine at government nominated accommodation is not required for fully vaccinated maritime crew. They must take a COVID-19 test in the first 24 hours of arrival, and self-isolate until the negative result.

Do unvaccinated maritime crew need to quarantine when signing off a vessel in Queensland?

Yes. An unvaccinated maritime crew member must quarantine at government nominated accommodation for 14 days, or until they join another vessel or depart Australia by air. Any transport to or from a vessel, airport or government nominated accommodation during the 14 day quarantine period must be via endorsed transport provider. Regional Harbour Master must have endorsed the Crew Changeover Checklist prior to the crew change taking place.

Does time at sea count towards an unvaccinated maritime crew member's quarantine period?

Time at sea from last international port can be counted towards a crew member's quarantine so long as there is no illness or suspected COVID-19 cases on board the vessel.

Example: A vessel's last international port visit before arriving in Queensland was in Indonesia. After departing Indonesia, the vessel spent 5 uninterrupted days at sea, with no further port stops and no illness on board, before arriving in Queensland. Unvaccinated crew are required to complete the balance of 14 days (9 days) quarantine either on the vessel or in government-nominated accommodation.

If an unvaccinated maritime crew member completes 14 or more of uninterrupted days at sea and receives a negative COVID-19 test, are there any further transport restrictions?

There are no further transport restrictions. Shipping agents may use a transport company of their choosing, including domestic flight.

Is a Crew Changeover Checklist still required if an unvaccinated crew member has completed 14 days or more at sea since last international port?

Yes. MSQ still require a Crew Changeover Checklist to confirm days at sea.

Can unvaccinated maritime crew leave quarantine for any reason?

Unvaccinated maritime crew may leave quarantine to either:

- Travel to a Queensland airport to depart Australia; or
- Travel to another vessel in Queensland to join that vessel.

In addition to the above, unvaccinated maritime crew member can leave and return to the quarantine location for the following purposes:

- to obtain essential medical care at a hospital or in accordance with advice from an emergency officer (public health); or
- to avoid injury or illness, or escape a risk of harm; or
- in the event of an emergency situation; or
- to conduct essential vessel functions that cannot be carried out by a non-quarantined maritime crew member.

Can maritime crew attend medical appointments?

Fully vaccinated maritime crew do not have to quarantine, subject to a negative COVID test (PCR or Rapid Antigen Test). With this in mind, there is no longer a need for fully vaccinated crew (subject to negative COVID test) to seek approval from MSQ or Queensland Health for medical appointments. Shipping agents are responsible for making private arrangements for medical appointments for fully vaccinated crew.

MSQ still requires unvaccinated maritime crew to submit requests for medical appointments for Queensland Health acceptance of appointment. Transport of unvaccinated maritime crew to medical appointments is still required to be undertaken by Queensland Ambulance Service.

If there is a medical emergency – call Triple Zero (000) immediately. Vaccination status does not affect emergency medical treatment.

Can maritime crew take shore leave?

Fully vaccinated maritime crew are now permitted under the Qld Maritime Protocol to take shore leave providing they:

- Are fully vaccinated (16 years of age or older who has received at least the prescribed number of doses of a Therapeutic Goods Administration approved or WHO-COVAX endorsed COVID-19 vaccine, and it has been 7 days since the final dose)
- Receive a negative COVID test (PCR or Rapid Antigen test)

Unvaccinated crew may take shore leave if the vessel has spent at least 14 uninterrupted days at sea, with no further port stops and no illness on board, A negative COVID test is also required.

Crew need to remain on board the vessel until the negative COVID test result is received, before being permitted to disembark.

Crew must also ensure that all Federal Government requirements are complied with.

What if a maritime crew member tests positive to COVID-19?

Any COVID-19 positive crew on board a vessel must be reported to MSQ immediately. MSQ will work directly with Queensland Health and all relevant industry stakeholders to manage the vessel and crew in the most effective way possible. Each vessel will be managed on a case-by-case basis, depending on the circumstances.

Possible close contact status of other crew will also be assessed on a case by case basis.

There are also Federal Government requirements to [report any illness on board vessels to the Department of Agriculture, Water and Environment \(DAWE\)](#).

Any onsigning maritime crew who test positive and have not yet joined a vessel, must continue to isolate in their accommodation as per the [Isolation for Diagnosed Cases of COVID-19 and Management of Close Contacts Direction \(No. 4\)](#) or its successors. They must not join the vessel until they are cleared of COVID-19.

Any fully vaccinated offsigners, or unvaccinated offsigners who have completed 14 days at sea, who test positive on their day 1 COVID test, must continue to isolate in their accommodation as per the [Isolation for Diagnosed Cases of COVID-19 and Management of Close Contacts Direction \(No. 4\)](#) or its successors. MSQ should also be advised, as there may be COVID concerns on board the vessel that needs to be managed.

Further information can be found at: [I have COVID-19 | Queensland Government](#).