

*These protocols have been reviewed by the PEI Chief Public Health Office*

The PEI Workers Compensation Board urges the Captain and crew to follow directives of the PEI Chief Public Health Office during the COVID-19 pandemic. Coronavirus is transmitted via larger liquid droplets when a person coughs or sneezes. The virus can enter through these droplets via the eyes, nose or throat if you are in close contact with an infected individual. It can be spread by touch if a person has used their hands to cover their mouth or nose when they cough. That's why it is recommended you cough or sneeze into your arm and wash your hands regularly. During this time, all people on board must place an increased focus on the COVID-19 Safe Work Protocols to help keep workers safe and the fishing industry operating without interruption. The Captain and crew of commercial fishing vessels must follow directives issued by the Chief Public Health Officer. The following safe practices will help prevent the spread of COVID-19:

Please respect the instructions of your local harbour authority to protect your health and safety, as well and the health and safety of harbour users.

## **PRIOR TO BOARDING THE VESSEL:**

- Crew must be educated on measures to prevent infection and transmission including the importance of hand washing, to cover your mouth and nose with a disposable tissue or the crease of your elbow when you sneeze or cough, dispose of used tissues immediately and avoid touching your face, eyes, nose or mouth with unwashed hands. Wash hands as soon as possible with soap and warm water or use an alcohol based hand sanitizer with a minimum 60% alcohol. *See page 4 PEI Government Covid-19 information poster for reference.*
- Perform a daily pre-board screening that includes asking the following questions to crew members;
  - Are you or anyone in your household currently experiencing cough (new or exacerbated chronic), headache, fever or chills, sore throat, marked fatigue, sneezing, congestion, body aches or runny nose?
  - Have you recently been in close contact with a person diagnosed with COVID-19?
  - Have you, or any of your household members, travelled outside of the province within the past 14 days?

If the Captain or crew answers yes to any of these questions, they should not report to work. Furthermore, if the Captain or crew is experiencing symptoms or has been in close contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19 they should return home to self-isolate and call 811.

- Implement physical distancing practices (2 meters or 6 feet apart) to avoid any transmission when performing work activities on the wharf. Minimize the crew and other workers' time performing tasks on the wharf where physical distancing cannot be maintained.

- Promote diligent hand washing with soap and water or use of hand sanitizer with a minimum 60% alcohol prior to boarding and throughout the duration of the trip.
- Wearing a non-medical mask has not been proven to protect the person wearing it and is not a substitute for physical distancing and hand washing. However, it can be an additional measure you can take to protect others around you, even if you have no symptoms. It can be useful for short periods of time, when physical distancing is not possible in public settings.
- Implement a policy requiring anyone with symptoms of illness to notify their employer, immediately self-isolate and call 811.
  - Symptoms include cough (new or exacerbated chronic), headache, fever or chills, sore throat, marked fatigue, sneezing, congestion, body aches, runny nose.
  - Workers, who develop symptoms associated with COVID-19 while on the vessel, should immediately self-isolate and be brought back to the wharf where they will return to their residence, immediately self-isolate and call 811.
  - Contact the Chief Public Health Office to determine which crew members are considered close contacts of the ill worker and determine what further actions are required of the Captain and crew.
- In addition to routine cleaning, all areas of the vessel where an ill worker had contact should be cleaned and disinfected in accordance with the vessel sanitation plan. Remember if cleaning any lobster holding area harsh chemicals can have negative impacts to lobster vitality. Be sure to thoroughly rinse all trace of chemicals from tanks, pans, totes, etc. to best maintain lobster health.
- Travelling to and from the boat: When possible, people should only travel in vehicles with people they live with. However, there may be circumstances where they need to carpool with co-workers to get to work. In these situations, two or more essential workers (employees in the fishing industry) can travel in the same vehicle, but should maintain physical distance (2m) as much as possible in the vehicle. Hands should be washed thoroughly before and after the truck ride and common surfaces should be wiped down with an approved disinfectant before and at the end of each trip.
- If maintenance or a repair is necessary on the vessel and cannot be carried out by the crew then only that one designated person is permitted on board and escorted by only one member of the crew (preferably the Captain) while maintaining the minimum physical distance (2 m) as much as possible. Once that repair person has exited the vessel, all surfaces that were contacted by the person or repair equipment are to be cleaned and disinfected.

*See next page for On-Board protocol*

**WHILE ON BOARD THE VESSEL:**

- Operate the vessel with the minimum number of crew possible to safely carry out fishing activities. Limit access to crew members only.
- Ensure soap and water for handwashing or hand sanitizer is readily available on the vessel and is conveniently located.
- Assign work activities in a manner that allows the crew to maintain physical distancing (2m). Minimize the crew's work time performing tasks where physical distancing cannot be maintained.
- Stagger the crew's time in the vessel's cabin to maintain physical distancing (2m).
- Do not share personal protective equipment, clothing, or gloves.
- Gloves should be worn at all times when carrying out work activities.
- Cups, cutlery and plates must not be shared and must be thoroughly cleaned and sanitized each day.
- Clean and disinfect shared equipment, frequently touched surfaces (handles, steering wheel, knives, etc.), washrooms and galley areas regularly with an approved cleaner and disinfectant.
- If possible, take shifts sleeping in individually identified cabin areas on overnight trips.
- The Captain and crew should remain on board the vessel while offloading their catch or maintain physical distancing (2m) at all times from others on the wharf.

For the most up-to-date COVID-19 public health recommendations please visit the [PEI Chief Public Health Office](#) website.

*These protocols have been reviewed by the PEI Chief Public Health Office.*

What you should know about

# COVID-19

(coronavirus)

## SYMPTOMS INCLUDE:



Fever



Cough



Difficulty Breathing

Call 811 if you are experiencing any of these symptoms

## How to protect yourself and others: Do not attend mass gatherings

Since respiratory viruses are spread through contact, change your regular greeting. Instead of a handshake, a kiss or a hug, a friendly wave or elbow bump is less likely to expose you to respiratory viruses.



Wash hands often



Elbow cough/sneeze



Avoid touching, eyes, nose, mouth with hands



Cough in tissues and throw them away



Stay home if you are sick



Avoid contact with sick person



## Travel Notice

Stop all non-essential travel outside of Canada.

Self-isolate for 14 days following all travel outside the province

Upon return, call 811 if you have symptoms.

You will be contacted with further information to receive COVID-19 testing

As always, we encourage you to take the following precautions to avoid the spread of germs during cold and flu season:

- wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- use soap immediately before handling any food or beverages.
- use hand sanitizer if you can't wash.
- avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth, especially with unwashed hands.
- politely refrain from shaking hands to reduce the risk of spreading infection.
- wipe down your workstations, computers, doorknobs, debit machines, desk and mobile phones, etc.
- avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- cough and sneeze into your sleeve and not your hands.
- stay home if you are sick to avoid spreading illness to others
- consult with your healthcare provider as needed.

[PrinceEdwardIsland.ca/COVID19](https://PrinceEdwardIsland.ca/COVID19)

COVID-19  
PEI Information Line **1-833-533-9333**

