

SHIPPING AGENTS MEMO

02-2022

DATE: 28 March 2022

SUBJECT: Fremantle Ports - Availability of COVID-19 vaccinations for International Seafarers

Over the past few months there have been an increasing number of queries from vessel crews with regards to availability of the COVID-19 vaccines for International Seafarers during the vessel's call at the Port of Fremantle.

In accordance with the commitment towards seafarer welfare, Fremantle Ports has been engaged with WA Department of Health to explore the possibility of COVID-19 vaccinations for International Seafarers.

Agents are hereby advised that COVID-19 vaccinations are now available for International Seafarers under the Commonwealth Vaccine Administration Partnership Program (VAPP).

According to the new provisions, shipping agents and companies can engage an Immunisation Provider (IProvider) from the Vaccine Administration Partnership Program (VAPP) and enter a commercial arrangement for the vaccination of international seafarers at the Port of Fremantle and other ports in Western Australia.

The list of Immunisation Providers for WA that can be contacted to engage their services is available at the below link

<https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/vaccine-administration-partners-program-panel>

The COVID-19 vaccine is free (primary course - first and second dose). However, the arrangement between shipping agents and IProviders would be a Model B VAPP commercial arrangement, with regards to the administering process. Further information regarding the Model B VAPP commercial arrangement is available at the below link

<https://www.health.gov.au/initiatives-and-programs/vaccine-administration-partners-program-panel/about/for-iproviders#vapp-model-b>

Regarding vaccination certificates after the vaccine has been administered, each state in Australia has individual arrangements. It is therefore recommended that the contracted IProvider contact the WA Department of Health to ascertain if their vaccination certificates are acceptable.

As a result of the Western Australia border reopening on 3 March 2022, a list of directions issued under the WA Emergency Management Act have now been revoked. The notable directions revoked and on the basis of which vaccination providers can board vessels to administer vaccines to maritime crew are:

- Exposed On-Board Worker Directions (No 5)
- Transport and Accommodation Services (Exposed Maritime Worker) Directions (No 4)

Boarding of vessels shall however, be subject to Occupational Health and Safety Risk Management, Fremantle Ports and Private terminals security requirements and COVID-19 infection prevention and control measures as stipulated by Commonwealth and WA Department of Health.

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A complete list of directions that have been revoked is available at the below link

<https://www.wa.gov.au/system/files/2022-03/COVID-Border-Opening-Consequential-Revocations-Directions.pdf>

Where an International Seafarer vaccination arrangement requires the seafarer to be taken to a shore medical clinic for administering of the vaccine, the requirements of the new Maritime Crew Member Direction No.7 shall apply. The Maritime Crew Member Directions No.7 is available at the below link

<https://www.wa.gov.au/system/files/2022-03/Maritime-Crew-Member-Directions-No-7.pdf>

From a data and statistics collection perspective, all agents availing of the service are requested to provide the following information to Fremantle Ports. This information can be submitted to Fremantle Ports via the COVID@fremantleports.com.au email address. Information requested is given below

- Name of vessel
- Date and number of seafarers vaccinated at Fremantle

Shipping Agents' co-operation in this data collection exercise will be much appreciated.

Any queries regarding the above process must be submitted to the email address:

harbourmaster@fremantleports.com.au



Capt. Savio Fernandes

Harbour Master