

March 16, 2020

To our valued customers and stakeholders:

The Port of Vancouver plays a vital economic role in Canada by connecting consumers and business with the global marketplace. We are closely monitoring the COVID-19 situation and would like to update you on the Vancouver Fraser Port Authority's preparedness and the state of operations within the Port of Vancouver.

Vancouver Fraser Port Authority (VFPA):

The safety and health of our employees, customers, operators and stakeholders remains our top priority.

Business continuity: The VFPA has activated an internal COVID-19 Task Force to monitor the situation and ensure appropriate plans are in place. The task force meets daily and consists of a cross-functional team responsible for determining appropriate policies and processes that reduce the risk that the outbreak poses to health and safety, and to the continuity of our business operations.

Visits to VFPA offices, operations centre and harbour tours: Many of our employees are now working remotely. As a result, we have begun to rely more on other resources to communicate, such as telephone, email, website and our eHub App. We encourage you to hold any meetings with our employees by alternative means.

We have asked our employees to postpone all work-related travel outside of our immediate region until further notice. Any employee returning from travel outside of Canada must work remotely for 14 days before returning to our offices.

If you or someone you live with have travelled outside of Canada in the last 14 days, or if you have any COVID-19 symptoms, we ask that you please do not enter our offices, and reschedule your meeting by alternative means. We will no longer be conducting harbour tours or operations centre tours from now to May 31. We are undertaking this step to limit the potential exposure of critical operational employees to COVID-19.

Port of Vancouver

The Port of Vancouver is open for business. On March 16, the Government of Canada imposed [additional travel restrictions for non-Canadians](#). These measures do not apply to commerce or trade, and Canada will continue to ensure the supply of important goods to and from Canada.

Marine operations: Visiting ships to the Port of Vancouver follow long-held protocols in place to prevent the introduction and spread of communicable diseases into Canada. Our [Port Information Guide](#) outlines Canada's quarantine regulations for vessel masters and notification requirements for any health concerns. Radio notice is required to inform vessel agents prior to arrival in Canada to alert the Canada Border Services Agency to address any potential public health risk.

No container or cargo vessels scheduled to arrive at the Port of Vancouver have been diverted due to health and safety reasons related to COVID-19. Transport Canada and [Health Canada](#) are the lead agencies providing information and guidance to safeguard the health and safety of workers in Canada's marine sector.

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Anchorage demand remains high. Potential impacts on immediate anchorage requests continue to occur in the short term. View “Vessels in Port” on the home page of our PortVan eHub app.

Movement of export cargo reflects seasonal operations. Container daily import rail on dock footage is uploaded to our eHub app and website dashboard each weekday at approximately 2pm Pacific time. [Download our eHub app](#) or visit our [website supply chain dashboard](#) for current port performance information.

NEW: Cruise operations: On March 13, the Government of Canada deferred the start of the 2020 cruise ship season in Canada to July 1, at the earliest. Transport Canada will reassess their decision as the situation evolves. The VFPA supports and will follow the direction of Transport Canada regarding changes to the upcoming cruise season and will continue to be in discussions with our cruise line partners over coming months.

NEW: Bunkering operations: The VFPA has **temporarily waived** the requirement in our Port Information Guide for bunker supplier crew to board a vessel to complete bunker checklists. In the short term, bunker supply operators may follow alternate measures to complete bunker checklists. Please contact the VFPA’s Operations Centre at email: [Ops & Sec-Safety](#) if you require further explanation.

NEW: English Bay Bunkering: The VFPA has completed an internal review of the risk assessment and will be amending the existing procedural length restriction (275 metres) for bunkering in English Bay. The port authority will require all bunker suppliers to participate in the annual accreditation program. We will issue a *Notice of Amendment to the Port Information Guide* in April, providing a 30-day comment period to the broad range of port users. Our target for implementation is scheduled to be June 1, 2020.

NEW: Trucking and VACS gates: The VFPA has **temporarily eliminated** the need for drivers to touch keypads to gain access to VACS gates. Drivers must still swipe their port pass to access port property. The VFPA is working with terminal operators to determine any other temporary requirements.

The Port of Vancouver is essential to Canada. Thank you to our valued customers and stakeholders for your continued support to keep the port functioning efficiently and for your ongoing business during this extraordinary global challenge.

Please feel free to share this email communication and other operational updates within your organization.

Yours truly,

Vancouver Fraser Port Authority



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