



The Great Lakes - St. Lawrence Seaway System
Le réseau Grands Lacs - Voie maritime du Saint-Laurent

2020 – Notice to Shipping #1

NIAGARA REGION

WELLAND CANAL

**OPENING OF COMMERCIAL NAVIGATION IN THE WELLAND CANAL
UNDER COVID-19 RELATED MEASURES**

A series of measures have been put in place to ensure the continuity of operations in the Welland Canal section of the St. Lawrence Seaway for both domestic and ocean vessels. These measures are designed to maintain an efficient transportation system while safeguarding the welfare of all personnel. We are continuing to follow the evolving situation and are working to ensure that lock operations will be reliable when commercial navigation resumes on March 24, 2020 (Welland Canal).

*For ocean vessels coming into the St. Lawrence Seaway, adherence to the 96 hour advance notice of arrival to the Government of Canada is essential. In addition, all crew members of domestic and ocean vessels must be monitored for symptoms of the virus and **notice must be immediately provided to the nearest Seaway Traffic Control Center** of any confirmed or suspected cases of the virus on board, prior to Seaway inspectors boarding the ship.*

New restrictions on transportation mean that all cruise ships carrying 500 or more people will be prohibited from entering Canadian waters. Consequently, cruise ships should monitor Transport Canada communication channels for further updates, as these stipulations may change in the future.

Please note that there may be limited capacity to assist ships requiring mooring lines for a lockage at a lock equipped with Hands-Free mooring. Operators of such ships requiring the use of mooring lines are required to contact the Seaway Traffic control center. The Seaway Traffic control center will advise on the order of turn and estimated schedule of entry into the canal.

In addition, in order to protect our employees, limitations to interfaces will be implemented. Further details will follow in a separate Notice to Shipping.

Please be assured, the current health crisis related to Covid-19 has our full attention and the situation is being constantly monitored. We will keep you informed of any changes.

St. Catharines, Ontario
March 18, 2020

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