



1

What is being done to maintain the Seaway as a critical mode of transportation of essential goods while safeguarding the welfare of all personnel and the public?

After the traditional winter shutdown, the 2020 commercial navigation season began on March 24 for the Welland Canal and on April 1 for the Montreal to Lake Ontario Section.

Guided by information made available by the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC), The St. Lawrence Seaway Management Corporation (SLSMC) is working closely with Transport Canada and all other relevant authorities on a comprehensive response to the COVID-19 crisis.

SLSMC has put in place a series of measures to ensure the continuity of operations on the St. Lawrence Seaway. These measures are designed to maintain an efficient transportation corridor into and out of the heartland of North America, while safeguarding the welfare of all personnel.

2

What specific requirements are in place to protect the public from potential COVID-19 cases on ships navigating the Seaway? ([Notice to Shipping 9 – Welland Canal](#) and [Notice to Shipping 17 – Montreal to Lake Ontario](#))

- As per the Quarantine Act, prior to arrival of a vessel at its destination in Canada, the vessel operator must inform a Quarantine officer, or cause a Quarantine officer to be informed if any person, cargo or other things on board the conveyance could cause the spreading of a communicable disease (such as COVID-19).
- Based on that information provided, PHAC will provide follow-on direction to the vessel.
- In the event that PHAC determines a crew member or passenger onboard a vessel to be at risk, notification will be provided to others (this may include but is not limited to the SLSMC Traffic Control Centre, Canada Border Services Agency, Canadian Coast Guard, Transport Canada Marine Safety, and appropriate pilotage and port authorities).
- Should a vessel have an ill or symptomatic crew member or passenger after having arrived in Canada, Masters should inform the appropriate local health authority and the ship's agent for further direction.
- Anyone who had close contact with someone who has or is suspected to have COVID-19 must self-isolate for 14 days. Self-isolate means that, for 14 days, they need to:
 - Stay at home (or aboard vessel) and monitor themselves for symptoms, even if mild.
 - Avoid contact with other people to help prevent transmission of the virus at the earliest stage of illness.

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Ships Engaged on Domestic Voyages in Canada:

- Prior to embarkation at sea or alongside, the vessel operator is to inform the appropriate local or provincial health authorities and the vessel's agent of crew members and passengers displaying an illness symptomatic of COVID-19 on board.
- Vessel Masters with crew members and passengers displaying signs and reporting symptoms of a suspected infectious disease are to also notify the appropriate agencies (this may include but is not limited to the SLSMC Traffic Control Centre, Canada Border Services Agency, Canadian Coast Guard, Transport Canada Marine Safety, and appropriate pilotage and port authorities).
- Anyone who had close contact with someone who has or is suspected to have COVID-19 must self-isolate for 14 days. Self-isolate means that, for 14 days, they need to:
 - Stay at home (or aboard vessel) and monitor themselves for symptoms, even if mild.
 - Avoid contact with other people to help prevent transmission of the virus at the earliest stage of illness.

(Note: The excerpts above were compiled from existing Transport Canada and Seaway directives, governing ships transits along the Seaway.)

3

Are marine sector employees working on ships free to embark and disembark whenever they wish to do so?

Transport Canada issued [Ship Safety Bulletin #9](#) related to the mobility of asymptomatic workers in the marine sector during COVID-19.

This bulletin provides useful guidance related to:

- International crew change
- Domestic crew change
- Shore leave for seafarers onboard foreign vessels
- Shore leave for seafarers onboard domestic vessels
- Exemption from self-isolation requirements for asymptomatic marine sector workers - both Canadian and foreign nationals

Please monitor Transport Canada communications channels for any further updates.

4

Has the Seaway system introduced any limitations and/or screening requirements at Canadian Locks? ([Seaway Notice 11](#))

When conducting any exchange of crew or supplies at Seaway facilities, the following measures are among the practices and procedures implemented by the Seaway to minimize all non-essential interactions during the COVID-19.

- With the use of Hands Free Mooring, no close contact is required between Seaway staff and a ship's crew.
- To minimize all non-essential interaction with Seaway staff, ship interfaces (exchanges of crew / supplies) have been restricted to specified Seaway locations only

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- The SLSMC has implemented screening measures for personnel requesting entry to a lock via access gates and for crew members requesting to disembark a ship at the locks.
- Crew members or chandlers (suppliers) may be refused access to the lock should they not meet the screening criteria.
- Crew members that are showing symptoms will not be permitted to disembark at the locks.

5

Will mooring line services be available at Seaway locks? ([Notice to Shipping 9 – Welland Canal](#) and [Notice to Shipping 17 – Montreal to Lake Ontario](#))

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 SLSMC Traffic Control Centre, where they will be advised on the order of turn and estimated schedule of entry into the canal.

6

Are there specific restrictions that have been implemented for pilots boarding ships at Seaway Locks? ([Notice to Shipping 18 – Montreal to Lake Ontario](#))

In order to minimize the risk to exposure of COVID-19, pilots will be granted access to Iroquois lock only once the ship is fully secured in the lock. Taxi drivers and pilots will be subject to the SLSMC screening measures before being allowed onto the lock. They may be refused access to the lock should they not meet the screening criteria. In addition, taxi drivers are not permitted to exit their vehicles.

Waiting room and washroom facilities at the lock are unavailable until further notice.

7

Have there been any changes to inspections for ships that transit the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway System? ([Notice to Shipping 19 – Montreal to Lake Ontario](#))

Due to the current operating environment, temporary changes to the Seaway Enhanced Ship Inspections (ESI) program for foreign ships are in place to minimize the risk of exposure, while balancing the risk to Seaway structures and ensuring compliance with Seaway Practices and Procedures.

These temporary measures will pro-actively evaluate a ship's conditions based on historical transits, the date of the last Seaway inspection, past deficiencies and corrective actions, etc. Ships that would traditionally be inspected will be sent a "[Self-Inspection Report for Foreign Ships](#)" which must be filled out and returned to the SLSMC 96 hours prior to arrival at CIP 2. This evaluation may result in some ships being exempt from a full ESI and being granted direct entry into St-Lambert Lock.

For exempt ships that may have a direct entry to the Seaway, ballast water inspections will still occur, however they will either take place between St. Lambert Lock and Cote St-Catherine Lock, between Snell Lock and Eisenhower Lock, or through other administrative measures.

These temporary measures will be in place until further notice.

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8

With boating season fast approaching, will pleasure crafts be permitted to transit Seaway locks? ([Pleasure Craft Bulletin 1](#))

For the time being, all pleasure craft lockages in the St. Lawrence Seaway are suspended. This suspension applies to the Montreal / Lake Ontario and the Welland Canal Sections of the Seaway.

The suspension of pleasure craft lockages reflects the need to minimize all non-essential interactions between Seaway personnel and members of the general public during the COVID-19 crisis.

Pleasure craft users will be advised, through a bulletin, when the above situation returns to normal.

