

NTM 21/20 - CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) HARBOUR RESTRICTIONS

Categories : [Notice to Mariners](#)

Date : 24th March 2020

In continuation to NTM 17/20, due to the rapidly worsening coronavirus health crisis and in light of recent government announcements there is now a need to impose further control on vessel movements and for some, implement restrictions on normal open port access to CMAL ports, harbours and facilities that are predominantly operated in support of lifeline ferries.

The demographics of the island and remote communities served by most CMAL lifeline ferry facilities demonstrate the populations of these areas contain a significantly higher proportion of vulnerable persons who would be at high risk of getting seriously ill from coronavirus. They are often only supported by a local GP provision.

With the need to protect these communities being a priority for CMAL and CalMac Ferries Ltd, mariners are informed that with immediate effect the following restrictions are now in force at all CMAL locations, a full list of which can be found [here](#) on CMAL's website.

Open port access to all CMAL ports, harbours and facilities is now closed to all non-essential visiting vessels. These specifically include:

- Recreational vessels
- Cruise ships
- Superyachts
- Tour boats
- Other small commercially operated vessels not being lifeline ferries who are carrying fare paying passengers

CMAL locations remain open to the following essential vessel traffic:

- Lifeline ferries
- Local fishing and fish farm vessels or those only landing catch or taking on supplies
- Commercial ships operated in support of local communities
- Vessels seeking a port of refuge
- Marine casualties or other similar emergencies
- Medivacs

All non-essential vessels entering harbour limits at staffed port locations must contact the harbour office via VHF 12 and follow any further instructions.

It is essential linkspan berthing areas are **kept clear at all times** for the exclusive use of lifeline ferries.

Further information about Covid-19 may be found at:

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<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>

<https://www.nhsinform.scot/illnesses-and-conditions/infections-and-poisoning/coronavirus-covid-19>

<https://www.gov.scot/coronavirus-covid-19/>

This notice will remain in force until further notice

Issued on behalf of the Harbour Master

Caledonian Maritime Assets Limited