

COVID19 UPDATE – PCR TESTING

SIG regulations have been amended effective 11th October 2022 in respect of rules pertaining to PCR testing of arriving crews and passengers.

Vessel Crews

All arriving crew must be fully vaccinated against Covid19. Effective immediately ships crews are no longer required to receive a negative PCR test prior to entering Solomon Islands. However, if vessel masters detect crew illness during the voyage, especially if symptoms suggest Covid illness, the crew member should be isolated, and the illness must be reported to Customs prior to vessel arrival. Normally ships' crew will not be permitted to disembark, however crews that are ill or suffering Covid-like symptoms and are scheduled to change vessels (for example fishing vessel crew changes) must not disembark or change vessel until a negative PCR result is obtained.

Ship passengers (for example, yachts and cruise vessels)

All arriving passengers 12 years of age and over must be fully vaccinated against Covid19. Effective immediately cruise ships and yacht passengers are no longer required to receive a negative PCR test prior to entering Solomon Islands. However, if vessel masters detect illness during the voyage, especially if symptoms suggest Covid illness, the person should be isolated, and the sickness must be reported to Customs prior to vessel arrival. Ill passengers must not disembark until a negative PCR test result is received.

Boarding Stevedores for Log Ships

All boarding stevedores must be fully vaccinated. Although RAT testing is no longer compulsory, vessel agents and operators must monitor stevedore health and report illness. At the completion of the log run, stevedores shall disembark under the control of Health and may be subject to RAT testing.

Customs regularly update their website with latest information for maritime user requirements.

<https://www.customs.gov.sb/index.jsf>