

COVID 19 MARINE UPDATE

Following the Prime Minister's announcement on Saturday 31 October, England has now entered a four-week period of national lockdown restrictions from Thursday 05 November to Wednesday 02 December.

Poole Harbour Commissioners (PHC) have consulted with the relevant government departments through the British Ports Association, UK Harbour Masters Association and the RYA, to seek clarification of the current national restrictions with regards to marine activities.

The Department for Transport has now confirmed that they will not be issuing any formal guidance on the use of watercraft for this second national lockdown.

FURTHER ADVICE

In the absence of any specific guidance, we advise that the following information should be consulted during this lockdown period:

[UK Government website](#) for the latest guidance

[RYA Advice for recreational boaters](#) for more specific boating information

[Sport England](#) for information on exercising on waterways

[British Marine Corona Virus Hub](#)

YACHTS CLUBS, MARINAS & YARDS

Visitors are advised to check ahead with their berth or mooring provider to ensure facilities are open, and to ensure compliance with any COVID measures that may be in place.

OPEN PORT DUTY

As Statutory Harbour Authority, PHC is subject to what is known as "Open Port Duty". This means that the Harbour must be open to anyone, "for the shipping and unshipping of goods and the embarking and landing of passengers", on payment of the rates and other conditions set by the Board. Therefore, Poole Harbour and the Port of Poole remains open at this time and commercial shipping will continue to operate as usual. And unless ordered by the UK government to close or restrict access to the port, the Harbour will remain open to any vessel that needs to transit the harbour or access a berth.

Thank you to all for your patience during this unprecedented time and we apologise for the confusion the recreational sector has faced this week in the absence of clear guidance from the Government. PHC's number one priority remains to ensure the safety of the Harbour, as well as our staff and customers, throughout this COVID-19 pandemic. All Harbour users and customers are strongly encouraged to adhere to the Government's lockdown guidelines requiring people to stay at home, except for specific purposes.

Mariners are reminded that radar, telephone and VHF Channels are recorded.

Owners, Agents, Charterers, Marinas, Yacht Clubs and Recreational Watersport Organisations should ensure that the contents of this Notice are made known to the masters or persons in charge of their vessels or craft.

**CAPTAIN BRIAN MURPHY
HARBOUR MASTER**

All Local Notices are available on the PHC website:

www.phc.co.uk/leisure/harbour-control/local-notices-to-mariners