

# MEDIA STATEMENT

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## FREE VACCINATION FOR FOREIGN SHIP CREWS

International ship crews visiting Queensland are now eligible for free COVID-19 vaccinations.

Maritime Safety Queensland (MSQ) General Manager Kell Dillon said the move would help keep seafarers and Queenslanders safe.

"Cargo and container ships are critical to keeping our supply chains and economy moving and their crews are the unsung heroes of the pandemic response," Mr Dillon said.

"But often they are unable to leave their ships for shore leave, to reunite with families or to get medical attention such as vaccinations."

Mr Dillon said MSQ, with Queensland Health and the Commonwealth Government's Department of Health and industry, had moved to address the problem.

"Seafarers will be able to receive free COVID-19 vaccinations from one of a Commonwealth Government approved panel of vaccination providers when their ships visit Queensland ports," he said.

"Shipping agencies, shipping companies and seafarer welfare organisations will be instrumental in delivering the program.

"Health providers will deliver vaccinations on board ships in keeping with our strict quarantine protocols.

"The seafarers will also receive proof of vaccination certificates which will greatly assist with shore leave and quarantine-free travel."

Mr Dillon said MSQ had consistently shown the way for other jurisdictions in COVID-19 crew management throughout the pandemic.

"We've implemented protocols to care for COVID-affected crew, repatriated them to Queensland hospitals for medical care and established quarantine arrangements for crew transfers," he said.

"Providing free COVID-19 jabs and certification will make a big contribution to seafarers' health and reduce the risk of outbreaks on board ship."

Mr Dillon said MSQ would provide industry with advice on how to engage an immunisation provider.

Further information can be found at [Vaccine Administration Partners Program Panel | Australian Government Department of Health](#)

**ENDS**

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