



All Port Partners:

In order to mitigate the threat of transmission of the Coronavirus to the Tampa Bay Pilots boarding your vessels, we respectfully request the following protective measures be taken on all vessels. The measures below are American Pilot Association recommended practices and are being implemented in other ports across the United States. These precautions not only help protect our members they may ultimately help protect other stakeholders throughout our port community. Please share this information with vessel Captains, vessel operators and others who need to know >>>

One of the best measures to take to avoid exposure to the coronavirus is to avoid close contact with anyone who may have been exposed to the virus. The CDC defines close contact as two meters. Accordingly, we are requesting that all shipboard personnel adhere to a minimum two (2) meter "safety zone" around the pilot from the pilot ladder/gangway to the bridge when boarding, and from the bridge to the gangway/pilot ladder when disembarking. Specifically, we request a one-person escort to/from the bridge and that all crewmembers be notified ahead of time to keep a safe (2 meter) distance from the pilot when they encounter the pilot in the passageways. Additionally, only the pilot and the escort should be in the stairwell or elevator to/from the bridge.

Also, please request that every member of the bridge team adheres to this two (2) meter security zone to the best of their ability. Greeting the pilot when he or she enters the bridge, as well as the Master Pilot Information Exchange and briefing, can be accomplished from a distance of two (2) meters; any officer addressing the pilot can do so from a distance of two (2) meters; and for the near future, we ask that the pilot not be asked to print and sign his or her name on any documents (security logs, pilot card, or master pilot briefing.)

The goal is to keep a safety zone of two (2) meters around the pilot the entire time he or she is on board your vessels. We believe this is one of the best ways to minimize or eliminate potential exposure to the Coronavirus while the threat exists. Thank you in advance for taking these preventative measures to keep our pilots & community healthy so we can continue to serve the port community uninterrupted during and through this outbreak of Coronavirus.