

## **Australian Government guidance as at 4<sup>th</sup> February, 2020**

Any ship departing China on or after 1 February will not be allowed to enter port until 14 days have elapsed. Any reported sickness on board a vessel will be investigated by Health / BPC Officers and if a Coronavirus case is confirmed a second 14 day quarantine period will be ordered. NSW has decided to apply the 14 day elapsed time period retrospectively and as from yesterday will not embark a pilot on a ship arriving from China that has not spent 14 days at sea.

When completing pre-arrival reporting to the Australian Biosecurity Department, (usually undertaken via the MARS system) vessels will now be issued with the attached fact sheet concerning the virus.

The Biosecurity Department is also requesting ships agents clarify the following information, should their vessels have recently called into a port in mainland China:

- The Date the vessel departed China;
- Ports called into between departing China and arriving in Australia;
- Declarations as to whether any sick personnel are on board;
- Declaration of the previous 5 ports of call;

Further to the above, where vessels affected berth in Australian ports, vessels may expect heightened bio-security/quarantine measures being implemented; including:

- Australian Biosecurity Department personnel attending the vessel wearing full body protection /HAZMAT style gear;
- Stevedores wearing masks and other protective gear, and being instructed to keep distance and avoid contact with crew where possible;
- Ships agents may carry out procedures from the wharf instead of boarding the affected vessels, so as to minimize potential contamination risk;
- Seafarers aboard affected vessels may be barred from leaving the vessel.