

Notice to Mariners

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Date – 6 November 2020

Notice is hereby given

Following Saturday's announcement by the UK Prime Minister that England will go into lockdown from Thursday, 5th November to Wednesday, 2nd December 2020, Newport Harbour is continuing to consult with Government agencies through the British Ports Association (BPA) and Solent & Southern Harbour Masters Association (SASHMA) to seek clarification and guidance on the new national restrictions and the measures required to be taken by ports and harbours.

We are still awaiting definitive guidance from the UK Government but in the interim, the majority of SASHMA members have agreed the following principles based on an understanding of the current guidance and have confirmed this position with the UK Government.

Newport Harbour's number one priority remains to ensure the safety of the harbour, as well as harbour 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.

Based on the information currently available, Newport Harbour will take the following actions from 5 November until further notice, to ensure compliance with lockdown guidance and rules.

Harbour Office

Newport Harbour Office will be closed to customers and visitors and all communications are requested to be sent via email to Newport.harbour@iow.gov.uk or alternatively, customers may phone on 01983 823885. If the phone is not answered please leave a message and the harbour staff will call you back.

Newport Harbour/Folly Visitor Moorings

There will be no overnight berthing at Newport Harbour's visitor pontoons; this includes the Folly visitor pontoon. There will be increased Harbour checks to ensure that all vessels on river moorings and pontoons are safe and secure. The harbour water taxi will be running but on a limited service. For further information for the water taxi please contact Folly Ventures on 07884 400 046 or 07974 864 627 or email Follymooring@hotmail.com

For Odessa Boatyard, Island Harbour and transiting through Cowes Harbour, boat users are advised to visit their respective websites and contact them directly for their most up-to-date information.

Open Port

As a Harbour Authority, Newport Harbour has a statutory duty to maintain an 'Open Port Policy' for freedom of navigation and public use. Commercial shipping will continue to operate as usual, and unless notified otherwise by the UK Government, the harbour will remain open to any vessel that needs to transit the harbour or access a berth.

Further Information

Newport Harbour will keep these policies under review in line with UK Government guidance and inform harbour users on any further updates. Newport Harbour would like to reiterate that all customers and harbour users should adhere to the latest Government guidelines regarding leaving home and ensure their trip to Newport harbour is in compliance with these rules.

Thank you for your understanding and patience. Stay safe.

Jonathan Brand, Senior Harbour Master