

Notice to Commercial Customers - Extended Weather Event to Impact Marine Atlantic Operations

An extended weather event is anticipated to impact Marine Atlantic's operations from Thursday, March 26, to Saturday, March 28. As a result, Marine Atlantic will be closing its terminals in North Sydney and Port aux Basques to live traffic (commercial and passenger) by noon tomorrow (March 26). It is possible this closure could occur earlier if weather forecasts or conditions deteriorate resulting in the cancellation of the 1145 sailing. The terminal marshalling yards will remain open for commercial drop trailer traffic only, space permitting.

Given that multiple crossings will be cancelled due to adverse weather conditions, combined with current protocols surrounding the isolation of high-risk customers in relation to the COVID-19 outbreak, and the need for social distancing, we are making this decision. Based upon current weather models and forecasts, we expect operations to resume Saturday evening. The MV *Leif Ericson* remains in service to provide additional sailings to assist in moving anticipated traffic demand.

For the use of commercial customers, washroom facilities will be available in both North Sydney and Port aux Basques Terminals on both the public and secure sides of the terminal. This applies to both commercial customers with live units and those picking up or dropping off drop trailer units. There will be a limit of three customers at a time allowed to access facilities on the secure side of terminals to allow for appropriate social distancing. Access to the Commercial Lounges, including the shower facilities, will not be permitted. The process for commercial customers during this terminal closure will be as follows:

- Live commercial units will not be accepted on the terminal lots.
- Units will be issued sequence numbers at the gate using the same process as during lot closures:
 - Driver issued sequence number and asked to leave property.
 - Driver will be contacted when they can return in advance of loading.
- Drop trailer units will continue to be accepted until such time as lots are full.
 - Drop trailer traffic will use normal lot closure process (as above).
- Terminals will open normally again after the weather delay is over and all units with sequence numbers are accommodated.
 - Communication will be via normal channels for lot closures.

Protecting the health and safety of customers and employees will continue to guide our decision-making process during this pandemic as we strive to maintain our essential ferry service link during these challenging times.

Natalie Musseau
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