

April 4, 2020

## Public Health Management for Cruise Ships Arriving at a US Port during COVID-19 Pandemic

**Follow Standard Protocols for Required Reporting of Sick Travelers:** At present, CDC is requesting maritime partners to please follow standard required reporting of symptoms for any sick traveler on an international conveyance destined for the United States. Symptoms of COVID-19 may include fever, cough, and shortness of breath, which are included in CDC's regulatory definition of "ill person."

CDC has provided Interim Guidance for Ships on Managing Suspected Coronavirus Disease 2019 for preventing spread of COVID-19 during and after a voyage, including personal protective measures for crew members.

<https://www.cdc.gov/quarantine/maritime/recommendations-for-ships.html>

**Purpose:** This document clarifies the roles and responsibilities of cruise ship/line, state and local health departments, and CDC if a traveler with confirmed COVID-19 is identified on a current or a previous voyage.

Due to the current COVID-19 pandemic, CDC recommends that all US-based cruise ships currently at sea as of April 2, 2020:

1. cancel all social gatherings on board ships, and
2. return to port early

As cruise ships return to US ports, the following scenarios and recommendations apply:

Scenario	Recommendations
<p><b>1(a). Ship reports a laboratory-confirmed case of COVID-19 on current voyage</b></p> <p><i>(e.g., a symptomatic person has medically disembarked and tests positive before end of voyage)</i></p> <p>OR</p> <p><b>1(b). Ship reports outbreak of acute respiratory illness compatible with COVID-19 on current voyage</b></p>	<p><b>Cruise ship/line – During Voyage Actions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Reports case to <a href="#">CDC quarantine station</a> (QS) with jurisdiction for the port</li><li>• Reports and isolates <u>any</u> additional travelers on board with acute respiratory illness compatible with COVID-19 per <a href="#">CDC guidance</a></li><li>• Reports and quarantines travelers who the ship identifies as having close contact (e.g., cabin attendant, traveling companions) per <a href="#">CDC guidance</a></li><li>• Cancels all social gatherings</li><li>• Cancels, or implements social distancing for, public dining to the extent possible</li><li>• Advises passengers to remain in cabins to the extent possible and practice social distancing if out of cabin</li><li>• Takes any additional actions per instructions of the QS</li></ul> <p><b>Cruise ship/line– Disembarkation Actions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Coordinates with QS and health department the movement of passengers or crew with<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ 1) laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 (with or without symptoms) or</li><li>○ 2) symptoms compatible with COVID-19 (but no lab testing) who are still considered infectious.</li></ul></li><li>• Depending on clinical severity, options include EMS transport and hospitalization, local isolation with transport by private vehicle, or air medical transport to final destination.</li><li>• Arrangements must be made all the way to their residence at their final destination<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Travelers known to be infectious with COVID-19 may not travel by commercial conveyance including charter flights that are not approved air medical transport.</li></ul></li><li>• Arranges transfer of symptomatic travelers not yet tested for COVID-19 needing hospital evaluation<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Coordinates with QS and health department to identify receiving hospital</li><li>○ Arranges EMS transport to receiving hospital</li></ul></li><li>• Allows disembarkation of mildly symptomatic and asymptomatic travelers<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Mildly symptomatic travelers may return home alone or with other symptomatic travelers by charter flight, air ambulance, ground ambulance or other private vehicle that can be properly sanitized.</li><li>○ Asymptomatic travelers may return home alone or with other asymptomatic travelers by charter flight or other private vehicle that can be properly sanitized.</li></ul></li></ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Mildly symptomatic and asymptomatic travelers cannot travel together unless they are going to the same residence or have been cabin mates and written consent is provided by the asymptomatic person to the cruise line.</li> <li>○ Commercial flights are not allowed.</li> <li>● Provides to all persons disembarking, a face mask or a cloth face covering of any type (i.e., procedural/surgical mask or even non-medical mask such as a bandanna) <u>but not an N-95 respirator mask</u> and asks them to wear it during:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ ship disembarkation,</li> <li>○ transport to any flights,</li> <li>○ the duration of the flight(s), and</li> <li>○ any public ground transportation until they reach their final destination.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Informs disembarking travelers to stay home for the next 14 days and monitor their health</li> <li>● Provides <a href="#">CDC's COVID-19 letter</a> to disembarking travelers and the subsequent voyage</li> </ul> <p><b>CDC Actions</b></p> <p>Quarantine Station:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Serves as the point of contact for the cruise ship/line, local maritime partners, and local public health</li> <li>● Notifies seaport partners (e.g., Customs and Border Protection &amp; US Coast Guard)</li> </ul> <p>Maritime Activity (MA):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● MA obtains partial (close contacts of single confirmed case) or full (if outbreak identified) ship manifest to provide:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Specific Epi-X notice to states for US residents</li> <li>○ Foreign public health notifications for those departing US</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Scenario</b></p>	<p><b>Recommendations</b></p>
<p><b>2. Confirmed case of COVID-19 associated with a previous voyage*</b></p> <p><i>(e.g., either case was a) infectious/had symptoms during the voyage, or b) infected/acquired the virus during the voyage)</i></p> <p><i>*Assumes Scenario 1 does not apply</i></p>	<p>If notified by any source other than the cruise ship/line, CDC QS notifies cruise ship/line of confirmed case of COVID-19 associated with a previous voyage</p> <p><b>Cruise ship/line – Current Voyage Actions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● See above actions for ill travelers and close contacts</li> </ul> <p><b>Cruise ship/line – Actions Related to Voyage with Confirmed Case</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Provides <a href="#">CDC's COVID-19 letter</a> to passengers and crew from the voyage with the confirmed case and the voyage immediately after</li> </ul> <p><b>CDC Actions</b></p> <p>Quarantine Station:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Serves as the point of contact for the cruise ship/line, local maritime partners, and local public health</li> <li>● Notifies seaport partners (e.g., Customs and Border Protection &amp; US Coast Guard)</li> </ul>