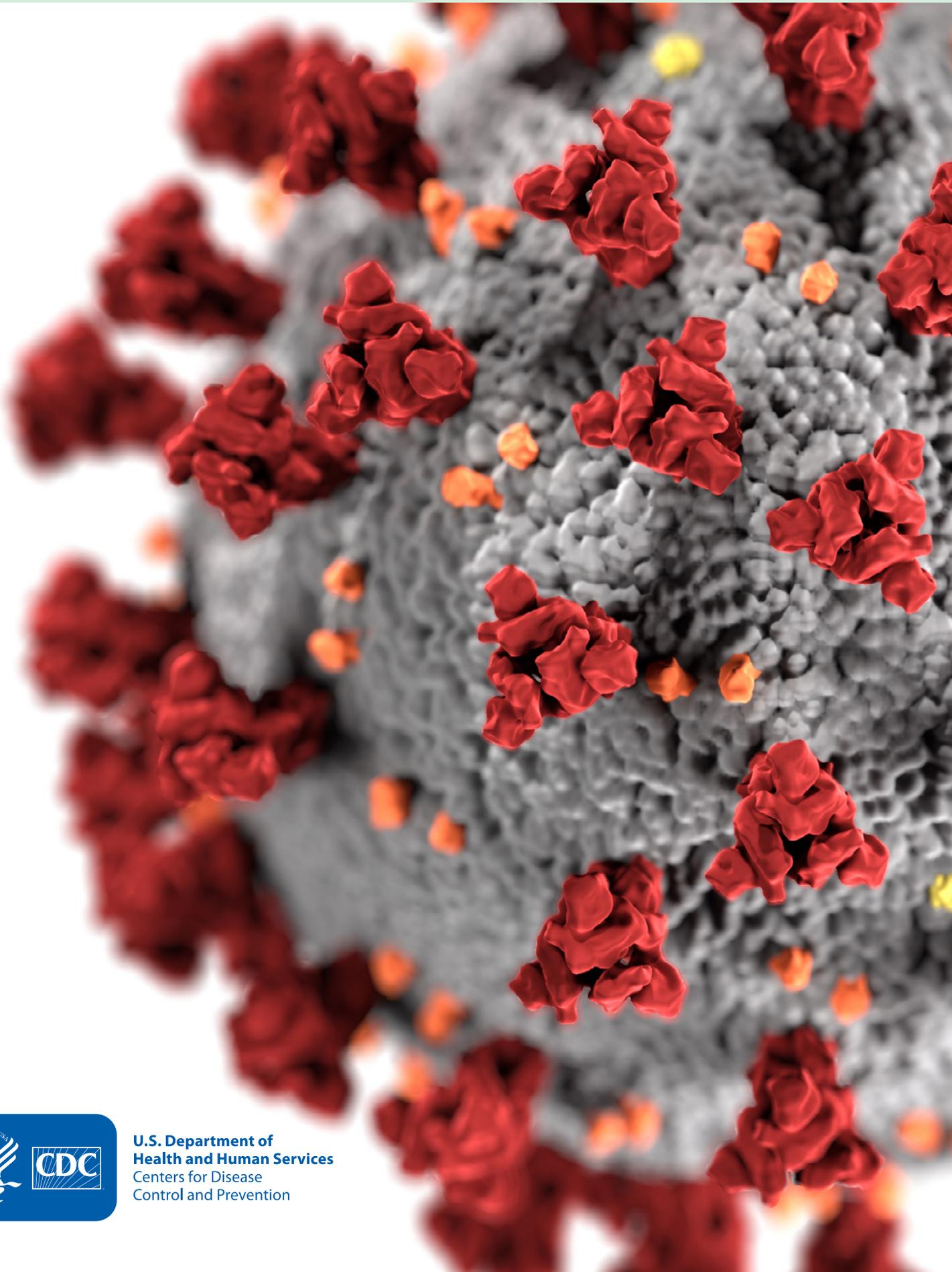


TECHNICAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR MITIGATION OF COVID-19 AMONG CRUISE SHIP CREW

Accessible version <https://www.cdc.gov/quarantine/cruise/management/technical-instructions-for-cruise-ships.html>



**U.S. Department of
Health and Human Services**
Centers for Disease
Control and Prevention

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Summary of Recent Changes

December 31, 2020

Clarified “CLIA-waived point-of-care testing” in the context of CDC’s Framework for Conditional Sailing Order.

December 23, 2020

Expanded testing options to include nucleic acid amplification tests (NAAT), such as reverse transcriptase polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR), reverse transcription loop-mediated isothermal amplification (RT-LAMP), and transcription-mediated amplification (TMA).

November 3, 2020

Renamed this document to Technical Instructions and added information about CDC’s Framework for Conditional Sailing Order. Added instructions for laboratory testing.

September 30, 2020

Added information about the third extension to CDC’s No Sail Order, effective September 30, 2020.

July 23, 2020

Added information about the second extension to CDC’s No Sail Order, effective July 16, 2020.

June 1, 2020

Added requirements for use of commercial travel to disembark crew members and clarified routine testing for SARS-CoV-2 infection.

April 28, 2020

Clarified the stipulations for disembarking asymptomatic crew for transfer or repatriation.

April 21, 2020

Clarified that notification to health departments for disembarking crews must include health departments with jurisdiction for the seaport and those with jurisdiction for the crew members’ residence.

Purpose

This document provides instructions for the initial phases of CDC's Framework for Conditional Sailing Order for cruise ship operations in U.S. waters to ensure health and safety protections for the crew prior to resuming passenger operations in a way that mitigates the risk of spreading COVID-19.

As a condition of obtaining or retaining permission to engage in any cruise ship operations in U.S. waters, the [Framework for Conditional Sailing Order PDF](#), published in the [Federal Register](#) on November 4, 2020, requires that cruise ship operators take adequate safeguards for crew, as demonstrated through laboratory testing for SARS-CoV-2 infection and other measures, to prevent, mitigate, and respond to the risk of COVID-19 on board cruise ships.

These instructions are not intended as, and do not constitute, a comprehensive statement regarding a cruise ship operator's duties and obligations under the Framework for Conditional Sailing Order. Cruise ship operators must establish mechanisms to ensure compliance with this Order, including any plans adopted pursuant to the Order, and immediately notify CDC and United States Coast Guard (USCG) within 24 hours of any deviations, whether intentional, or as a result of error or omission.

These instructions reflect CDC's reasoned judgement based on the best available current science regarding the subject areas covered in the document. Cruise ship operators should carefully consider and incorporate these instructions in developing their own health and safety protocols.

CDC will update these instructions for cruise ships for the additional phases of resuming cruise ship passenger operations, as described in the Order and in future conditional sailing orders. CDC will notify cruise lines when these instructions are updated.

Preventive Measures

Cruise ships involve the movement of large numbers of people in settings where they are likely to have close contact with one another. Close-contact environments facilitate transmission of respiratory viruses from person to person through exposure to respiratory droplets, aerosols, or contact with contaminated surfaces. Cruise ships may also be a means by which infected persons travel between geographic locations.

To reduce spread of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, CDC recommends that cruise ship operators:

- Relocate all crew to single-occupancy cabins with private bathrooms
- Instruct crew members to remain in cabins as much as possible during non-working hours
- Cancel all face-to-face employee meetings, group events (such as employee trainings), or social gatherings
- Close all crew bars, gyms, and other group settings
- Implement social distancing of crew members when working or moving through the ship (maintaining at least 6 feet [2 meters] from others)
- Instruct crew members to wear a [face mask](#) when outside of individual cabins
- Modify meal service to facilitate social distancing (e.g., reconfigure dining room seating, stagger mealtimes, encourage in-cabin dining)
- Eliminate self-serve dining options at all crew and officer messes
- Discourage handshaking—encourage the use of non-contact methods of greeting
- Promote respiratory and [hand hygiene](#) and cough etiquette
- Place hand sanitizer (containing at least 60% alcohol) in multiple locations and in sufficient quantities to encourage hand hygiene
- Ensure handwashing facilities are well-stocked with soap and paper towels
- Place posters that encourage [hand hygiene](#) to help [stop the spread](#) in high-trafficked areas

Some exceptions to these measures can be made for those ships that have met the “[Green](#)” or “[Yellow](#)” criteria.

See [COVID-19 Color-coding System for Cruise Ships During the Initial Phases of Conditional Sailing](#).

Surveillance for COVID-19

- As an interim replacement to the Maritime Conveyance Cumulative Influenza/Influenza-Like Illness (ILI) Form for each international voyage, CDC requires weekly submission of the “Enhanced Data Collection (EDC) During COVID-19 Pandemic Form” during the period of the Framework Order. This EDC Form will be used to conduct surveillance for COVID-19 on board cruise ships using cumulative reports of acute respiratory illness (ARI), influenza-like illness (ILI), pneumonia, and other clinical indicators.
- Access to the online EDC form has been provided to cruise lines by the Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA) or CDC. Cruise lines that do not have access should contact CLIA or CDC (email eocevent349@cdc.gov).
- In addition to this weekly surveillance via the online EDC form, cruise ship operators should continue to report to USCG via Advance Notice of Vessel Arrival (ANOA), which constitutes the most timely source of illness information when the cruise ship is within waters subject to the jurisdiction of the United States.

CDC may publish these surveillance data on its website or in other documents to inform the public.

Shoreside COVID-19 Laboratory Screening Testing of All Crew

In preparation for the resumption of passenger operations, cruise ship operators must have adequate health and safety protections for crew members while they build the onboard laboratory capacity needed to test crew and future passengers. By December 29, 2020 (60 days after the effective date of the Framework Order)*, cruise ship operators must collect clinical specimens for SARS-CoV-2 testing from all crew currently onboard their cruise ships and arrange for the transportation and testing of those specimens at a shoreside laboratory facility. This testing must be conducted by a Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA)-certified laboratory using nucleic acid amplification tests (NAAT), such as reverse transcriptase polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR), reverse transcription loop-mediated isothermal amplification (RT-LAMP), and transcription-mediated amplification (TMA), authorized for emergency use by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and that has been evaluated on the [FDA reference panel](#) for SARS-CoV-2.

- Prior to collecting specimens and conducting testing: Cruise ship operators must contact CDC at eoevent349@cdc.gov at least 7 calendar days prior to collecting specimens. Include "Laboratory Screening Testing of All Crew Onboard [SHIP NAME]" in the subject line as part of your request for CDC approval.
- CDC's response to the cruise ship operator's email may include additional information regarding best practices that may assist cruise ship clinicians or public health staff in collecting and transporting specimens.
- CDC may oversee the onboard collection of crew specimens through remote means allowing for visual observation.
- All specimens for a ship's crew must be tested at the same laboratory and not divided between different shoreside laboratories.
- If the shoreside laboratory does not provide specimen collection kits, then CDC must approve the cruise ship operator's selection of a supplier for the specimen collection kits.
- Cruise ship operators must report all laboratory results in aggregate to CDC through the Enhanced Data Collection (EDC) form.
 - » To ensure the integrity of testing, persons with positive NAAT results must not be retested, and the original positive results must be reported. Subsequent negative results do not negate an initial positive result.
 - » CDC will consider all positive NAAT results as new cases, unless laboratory documentation of a previous SARS-CoV-2 by NAAT result within the previous 3 months is provided. While some positive results may be from people who have recovered from COVID-19 and are no longer infectious (i.e., persistent positives), CDC cannot make a determination without submission of previous laboratory results.

Shoreside COVID-19 Laboratory Screening Testing of All Embarking Crew

- On the day of the crew members' embarkation, cruise ship operators must collect specimens for SARS-CoV-2 testing from all embarking land-based crew. Cruise ship operators must immediately transport the specimens to a CLIA-certified laboratory for testing.
- This laboratory must use a NAAT that has been authorized for emergency use by FDA and that has been evaluated on the [FDA reference panel](#) for SARS-CoV-2. CDC must approve the cruise ship operator's selection of a CLIA-certified laboratory. All additional requirements as listed for *Shoreside COVID-19 Laboratory Screening Testing of All Crew*, above, must also be followed.
- Cruise ship operators must report results in aggregate to CDC through the EDC form.
- All embarking land-based crew must be immediately quarantined onboard for 14 days.
 - » Those who test positive must be isolated until criteria are met for discontinuation of isolation according to the most current [CDC guidance](#).
- CDC may oversee, through remote, visual observation, the collection of specimens.

Onboard COVID-19 Testing for Symptomatic Travelers (Crew and Future Passengers) and Close Contacts

- By December 29, 2020*, cruise ship operators, in coordination with CDC, must implement onboard testing capabilities to be able to test all symptomatic travelers (crew and future passengers) and their close contacts for SARS-CoV-2.
- All cruise ships must procure rapid NAAT point-of-care equipment to test symptomatic travelers. This instrument must be CLIA-waived and have been evaluated on the [FDA reference panel](#) for SARS-CoV-2.
 - » Cruise ship operators must contact CDC prior to procuring this equipment.
 - » Antigen testing is not recommended at this time because it is more likely to miss cases of SARS-CoV-2 infection (i.e., lower sensitivity) when compared to NAAT.
- Cruise ship medical clinic staff must be competent in specimen collection, be able to properly use testing equipment, follow all manufacturer's instructions, and have access to and use recommended [personal protective equipment \(PPE\)](#) for specimen collection, handling, and testing.
 - » CDC may ensure competency by conducting oversight of these practices through remote, visual observation.
 - » Cruise ship operators must maintain onboard SARS-CoV-2 testing equipment to manufacturer's specifications.
- Once testing equipment has been obtained and cruise ship medical clinic staff are properly trained in its use, all symptomatic crew onboard the cruise ship must be tested for SARS-CoV-2 infection immediately upon notifying medical staff of symptom onset. Results must be reported to CDC in aggregate through the EDC form.
- Because of the potential for asymptomatic and pre-symptomatic transmission, it is important that [close contacts](#) of individuals with SARS-CoV-2 infection be quickly identified and tested.
 - » A negative test during quarantine does not mean the contact will remain negative after test results have been obtained; therefore, close contacts must quarantine for 14 days.
- Clarification regarding requirement for "CLIA-waived point-of-care testing" as used in the Framework Order:
 - » All facilities in the United States that perform laboratory testing on human specimens for health assessment or the diagnosis, prevention, or treatment of disease are regulated by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) under the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments of 1988 (CLIA).
 - » Waived COVID-19 diagnostic test systems include those authorized by FDA in an emergency use authorization (EUA) for point-of-care use (e.g., outpatient medical facilities or mobile clinics) and those tests categorized by FDA as waived after FDA approval or clearance (though no COVID-19 tests have been cleared or approved yet). Laboratories that perform only waived tests must obtain and maintain, at minimum, a Certificate of Waiver.
 - » CLIA allows for a primary site (e.g., a shoreside corporate office) to have a CLIA Certificate of Waiver and perform testing at temporary sites (e.g., cruise ship medical centers).
 - » Under the Framework Order, cruise ship operators must use *tests* that are approved, cleared, or authorized for emergency use by FDA and evaluated on the [FDA reference panel](#) for SARS-CoV-2, as specified by CDC in technical instructions or orders.
 - › For onboard testing, cruise ship operators must use a point-of-care test that is "CLIA-waived" (i.e., tests that have been determined by FDA to be simple and have a low level of erroneous results through the EUA process or CLIA test categorization process).
 - To the extent that CLIA might apply to a foreign-flagged cruise ship operating or intending to operate in U.S. waters, CMS is temporarily exercising enforcement discretion under CLIA for SARS-CoV-2 testing. Specifically, neither CMS nor the State survey agencies on its behalf will require such foreign-flagged cruise ships to obtain a Certificate of Waiver to perform such testing.

*Note: For cruise ship operators with ships that have not been in U.S. waters during the period of the No Sail Order or voluntarily withdrew their ships, the 60-day period will begin upon: (1) CDC's confirming to the cruise ship operator in writing that the operator has a complete and accurate NSO response plan, including having submitted to CDC a signed Acknowledgment of No Sail Order Response Plan Completeness and Accuracy; and (2) submission of the EDC form for the 28 days preceding the cruise ship's expected arrival in U.S. waters.

Crew Monitoring

Cruise ship operators should educate crew members about the [signs and symptoms](#) of COVID-19; the need to notify cruise ship medical staff immediately if symptoms develop; and the importance of not working and isolating in their cabins while sick with fever or other symptoms or COVID-19 until they meet criteria for discontinuation of isolation according to [CDC guidance](#), as determined by cruise ship medical staff.

Crew must be monitored daily for signs and symptoms of COVID-19. If cruise ship operators can provide thermometers, self-temperature checks are preferable.

Disembarking Asymptomatic Crew for Transfer or Repatriation

During the initial phases of the Framework Order, there are stipulations for crew transfers and repatriation.

- Use of commercial transportation by crew from ships unaffected by COVID-19, as defined below, may occur. The cruise line must complete the *Attestation for Commercial Transportation of Disembarking Crew for Cruise Ship Operators During the Period of the Initial Conditional Sailing Order* before crew can travel commercially.
- To be considered currently unaffected by COVID-19, ships must have had no confirmed cases of COVID-19¹ or COVID-like illness² in the past 28 days and if the ship received ship-to-ship³ transfers within the past 28 days, crew must have come from a ship that had no confirmed COVID-19 or COVID-like illness within the 28 days before the transfer occurred. In addition, if land-based crew embarked, they must have been immediately quarantined for 14 days upon embarking the ship.
- Use of commercial transportation by crew members who have recovered from COVID-19 and met criteria for release from isolation according to [CDC guidance](#) within the previous 3 months may occur as follows:
 - » Cruise ship medical personnel are responsible for providing the crew member with a medical certificate stating that the crew member has recovered from COVID-19 and met CDC's criteria for discontinuing isolation.
 - » The medical certificate must meet the requirements of [Department of Transportation regulations pdf icon\[PDF-958 pages\]](#) (14 Code of Federal Regulations § 382.23(c)(2)).
- Crew members who recovered from COVID-19 more than 3 months ago are subject to the same conditions for disembarkation as other crew members on board the ship.

Symptomatic Crew Members

Identifying and isolating crew with possible symptoms of COVID-19 as soon as possible is essential to minimize transmission of the virus. Crew must self-isolate immediately and inform the onboard medical center if they develop a fever (100.4°F / 38°C or higher), begin to feel feverish, develop acute respiratory symptoms (cough or difficulty breathing), or other [symptoms of COVID-19](#).

Cruise ship medical personnel and cruise line telemedicine providers should reference CDC's COVID-19 website [Information for Healthcare Professionals](#) for the latest information on infection control, clinical management, collecting clinical specimens, evaluating patients who may be sick with or who have been exposed to COVID-19, or identifying [close contacts](#). For additional information, please refer to [Interim Guidance for Ships on Managing Suspected Coronavirus Disease 2019](#).

1 Confirmed COVID-19 means laboratory confirmation for SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, by NAAT.

2 COVID-like illness means acute respiratory illness (ARI), influenza-like illness (ILI), diagnosis of pneumonia, or other signs and symptoms of COVID-19.

3 Ship-to-ship transfers are defined as any movement of crew between ships.

Isolation of Symptomatic Crew and Confirmed Cases and Quarantine of Close Contacts

Crew with ARI, ILI, pneumonia, or other clinical indicators of COVID-19 must be isolated using the same procedures as a crew member with confirmed COVID-19. If the symptomatic crew member has a negative SARS-CoV-2 test result, they must continue to follow CDC's [COVID-19 isolation guidance](#). Quarantine of asymptomatic crew that are identified as [close contacts](#) of symptomatic crew or confirmed cases is also needed to minimize transmission of SARS-CoV-2 on board.

- Isolate or quarantine crew in single-occupancy cabins, with private bathrooms, with the door closed.
- Selection of cabins for isolation or quarantine should consider the following:
 - » Proximity to the medical facility and gangways for ease of patient transport
 - » Location in dead-end corridors or low-traffic areas to minimize potential exposures
 - » Spacing between other occupied cabins to reduce transmission risk
 - » Absence of interconnecting doors to reduce accidental exposures
 - » Positioning within view of security cameras for enforcement of isolation or quarantine
 - » Presence of balconies for psychological morale
- Isolated or quarantined crew members must have no direct contact with other crew except for designated medical staff.
- Designated medical staff or other personnel must wear proper personal protective equipment (PPE) per [CDC guidance](#) when in proximity to isolated or quarantined crew members.
- Meals should be packaged in disposable dining ware with single-use cutlery and must be delivered to individual cabins with no face-to-face interaction during this service.
- Cabins housing isolated or quarantined crew should not be cleaned by other crew members. Supplies such as paper towels, cleaners, and disinfectants, and extra linens can be provided to isolated or quarantined persons so they can clean their cabin by themselves as necessary.
- Food waste and other trash should be collected and bagged by the isolated or quarantined crew member and placed outside the cabin during designated times for transport to the waste management center for incineration or offloading.
- Soiled linens and towels should be bagged in water-soluble bags by the isolated or quarantined crew member and placed outside the cabin during designated times for transport to the laundry room.
- Consider use of surveillance cameras or security personnel to ensure compliance with isolation or quarantine protocols wherever possible.

Medical Management of Suspected or Confirmed COVID-19

Cruise ship medical centers are recommended to follow the [operational guidelines](#) published by the American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP). Ships should carry a sufficient quantity of PPE, medical and laboratory supplies listed on CDC's [Interim Guidance for Ships on Managing Suspected Coronavirus Disease 2019](#). Maintaining adequate supplies of antipyretics (e.g., acetaminophen and ibuprofen), antiviral and antimicrobial medications, supplemental oxygen, and FDA-authorized rapid diagnostic tests for SARS-CoV-2 is also recommended. Information to estimate needed medical staffing and equipment can be found in the [Federal Healthcare Resilience Task Force Alternate Care Site Toolkit\[PDF – 136 pages\]](#), Supplement 2. As [treatment](#) and testing become more available in the United States, cruise ships must align with the latest CDC recommendations.

Disembarking Crew Members to Obtain Medical Care

Cruise lines are responsible for the medical care of ill or infected persons on board, including those who need hospitalization. For crew who need emergency medical attention that cannot be provided on board the ship, cruise lines should coordinate with the shoreside healthcare facility and U.S. Coast Guard.

- Crew member must wear a face mask, i.e., a cloth mask or surgical mask, covering their mouth and nose during the disembarkation process and throughout transportation to the shoreside healthcare facility, if a mask can be tolerated and does not interfere with medical treatment (e.g., supplemental oxygen).
- If crew member is known to be infected with or has symptoms compatible with COVID-19:
 - » All escorting personnel should wear appropriate proper PPE per [CDC guidance](#).
 - » Cruise ship operator must ensure a separate pathway or sanitary corridor where the disembarking crew member will exit with their personal belongings such as luggage.
 - » The pathway used for disembarkation, any potentially contaminated surfaces (e.g., handrails) along the pathway, and any equipment used (e.g., wheelchairs) should be cleaned and disinfected immediately after disembarkation (see Cleaning and Disinfection section below).

Discontinuation of Isolation

Isolation may be discontinued for symptomatic crew with suspected or confirmed COVID-19, or asymptomatic crew with laboratory-confirmed COVID-19, once criteria outlined in CDC's guidance for [Discontinuation of Isolation for Persons with COVID-19 Not in Healthcare Settings](#) are met.

Discontinuation of Quarantine

Quarantine may be discontinued for asymptomatic crew who have had close contact with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 cases under the following conditions:

- 14 days have passed since last exposure to a suspected or confirmed case (considering the last exposure date to case as Day 0); and
- the exposed crew member has remained afebrile; and
- the exposed crew member has not developed acute respiratory symptoms or other clinical indicators of COVID-19.

Cleaning and Disinfection

Current evidence suggests that COVID-19 may remain viable for hours to days on surfaces made from a variety of materials. Cleaning of visibly dirty surfaces followed by disinfection is a best practice measure for prevention of COVID-19 transmission.

In addition to routine cleaning and disinfection strategies, ships should focus on cleaning and disinfecting common areas where crew members may come into contact with infectious persons. Frequent, routine cleaning and disinfection of commonly touched surfaces such as handrails, countertops, and doorknobs with an [EPA-registered disinfectant](#) effective against coronaviruses is required.

Additional information on cleaning and disinfecting on cruise ships can be found on CDC's [Interim Guidance for Ships on Managing Suspected Coronavirus Disease 2019](#).

Other environmental considerations include:

- Wait 24 hours or as long as practical before beginning cleaning and disinfection of cabins vacated by crew members with confirmed or suspect COVID-19.
- In order to minimize the possibility of dispersing virus through the air, do not shake dirty laundry.
- Launder soiled linens and towels collected from cabins occupied by isolated or quarantined crew in washing machines set at the warmest appropriate water setting for the items, and dry items completely.
- Identify pathways to minimize risk of respiratory transmission when crew are required to move in and out of isolation and quarantine corridors and during the transport of waste and soiled linens generated by isolated or quarantined crew members.
- Designated trolleys/carts used for the transportation of waste and soiled linens from isolated or quarantined cabins must be cleaned and disinfected with an effective disinfectant after each use.

Medical personnel who have direct contact with isolated or quarantined persons and crew members who handle waste or soiled linens must wear proper PPE per CDC's [Interim Guidance for Ships on Managing Suspected Coronavirus Disease 2019](#).

COVID-19 Color-coding System for Cruise Ships During the Initial Phases of the Framework for Conditional Sailing Order

These instructions and the commercial transportation attestation are only applicable to cruise ship operators with a complete and accurate No Sail Order response plan for crew management and for their ships that have met CDC's criteria for a "Green" ship. Cruise company officials must sign an acknowledgment of the completeness and accuracy of their response plan. Status of ships is contingent upon weekly submission of the Enhanced Data Collection (EDC) during COVID-19 Pandemic.

Green Ship Criteria

- No confirmed cases of COVID-19 or COVID-like illness for 28 days, as determined by a qualified medical professional.
- If the ship received ship-to-ship transfers within the past 28 days, crew must have come from a ship that had no confirmed COVID-19 or COVID-like illness within the 28 days before the transfer occurred.
- If land-based crew embarked, they were immediately quarantined for 14 days upon embarking the ship.

Note: To maintain Green status, ships must submit a weekly EDC form to CDC. Failure to submit, changes ship status to Red. Green ship status means that CDC believes the ship is currently unaffected by COVID-19 based on information provided by the cruise ship operator.

Yellow Ship Criteria

- Previously designated Green, but now has 1 or more COVID-like illness cases pending COVID-19 NAAT results.
 - » If positive, status changes to Red (must sign attestation again after meeting criteria again)
 - » If negative, status goes back to Green
 - » If crew with COVID-like illness are not tested by NAAT or if results are not available within 1 week of the case being reported, status changes to Red.
- If the ship received ship-to-ship transfers within the past 28 days, crew must have come from a ship that had no confirmed COVID-19 or COVID-like illness within the 28 days before the transfer occurred. If not, status changes to Red.
- If land-based crew embarked, they were immediately quarantined for 14 days upon embarking the ship. If not, status changes to Red.

Red Ship Criteria

- One or more cases of confirmed COVID-19 or COVID-like illness within the past 28 days, or
- Ship received ship-to-ship transfers from a ship that had confirmed COVID-19 or COVID-like illness within the 28 days before the transfer occurred, or
- If land-based crew embarked, they were not immediately quarantined for 14 days upon embarking the ship, or
- During the past 28 days, the ship missed one or more weekly submission of the EDC form.

Note: Embarkation of passengers is strictly prohibited for all ships during the initial phases of the Framework for Conditional Sailing Order and may result in suspension and revocation of this limited permission to operate in U.S. waters.

COVID-19 Color-coding System for Cruise Ships During the Initial Phases of the Framework for Conditional Sailing Order

		Preventive Measures Based on Ship Status		
		GREEN	YELLOW	RED
Crew Transfers and Repatriation Via Non-Commercial Transportation		Permitted	Permitted	Permitted
Crew Transfers and Repatriation Via Commercial Transportation		Permitted	Not Permitted	Not Permitted
Asymptomatic Crew Restrictions	Relocate all crew to single-occupancy cabins with private bathrooms	Recommended	Required	Required
	Instruct crew members to remain in cabins as much as possible during non-working hours	Not Required	Not Required	Required
	Cancel all face-to-face employee meetings, group events (such as employee trainings), or social gatherings	Not Required	Required	Required
	Close all crew bars, gyms, or other group settings	Not Required	Required	Required
	Implement social distancing of crew members when working or moving through the ship (maintaining at least 6 feet [2 meters] from others)	Recommended	Required	Required
	Instruct crew members to wear a face mask when outside of individual cabins	Recommended	Required	Required
	Modify meal service to facilitate social distancing (e.g., reconfigure dining room seating, stagger mealtimes, encourage in-cabin dining)	Not Required	Required	Required
	Eliminate self-serve dining options at all crew and officer messes	Required	Required	Required
	Discourage handshaking—encourage the use of non-contact methods of greeting	Required	Required	Required
	Promote respiratory and hand hygiene and cough etiquette	Required	Required	Required
	Place hand sanitizer (containing at least 60% alcohol) in multiple locations and in sufficient quantities to encourage hand hygiene	Required	Required	Required
	Place posters that encourage hand hygiene to help stop the spread in high-trafficked areas	Required	Required	Required

Procedure for “Green” Cruise Ships Requesting to use Commercial Transportation

1. Cruise ship operator determines that the ship meets CDC’s criteria for “Green” status.
2. Cruise ship operator submits a signed unaltered *Attestation for Commercial Transportation of Disembarking Crew for Cruise Ship Operators During the Period of the Initial Conditional Sailing Order* to CDC at eocevent349@cdc.gov.
3. To confirm Green status, CDC will assess the status of the ship by reviewing surveillance data submitted weekly using the EDC form.
4. If CDC clears the ship as meeting Green status, CDC will send cruise ship operator a clearance email informing them that arrangements for commercial flights can now be made.
 - a. To inform transportation partners (e.g., Federal Aviation Administration, Transportation Security Administration, and airlines) of the ship’s ability to arrange commercial travel, CDC will post on its website the names of all ships with Green status and a signed attestation for commercial travel.
 - b. The attestation will be valid from the time of CDC clearance until the ship’s status changes (to “Yellow” or “Red”) or the end of the NSO period.
5. Once a ship has achieved “Green” status and has a cleared attestation, CDC will continue to review the ship’s status on a weekly basis to determine if it changes to Yellow or Red. Failure to submit weekly EDC form, changes ship status to Red.
6. If ship’s status changes from Green to Yellow or Red based on criteria:
 - a. CDC will notify the cruise ship operator by email.
 - b. CDC will update the ship’s status on its website.
 - c. Commercial travel from the ship must not occur.
7. Cruise lines whose ships have achieved Green status, including a signed and approved attestation, may provide a letter informing the airline that the crew member will disembark a Green ship. The letter can be provided to the:
 - a. commercial airline upon booking, and/or
 - b. crew member upon disembarkation.

Summary of Past Changes

September 30, 2020 Update

Added information about the third extension to CDC's No Sail Order, effective September 30, 2020.

July 23, 2020 Update

Added information about the second extension to CDC's No Sail Order, effective July 16, 2020.

June 1, 2020 Update

Added requirements for use of commercial travel to disembark crew members and clarified routine testing for SARS-CoV-2 infection.

April 28, 2020 Update

Clarified the stipulations for disembarking asymptomatic crew for transfer or repatriation.

April 21, 2020 Update

Clarified that notification to health departments for disembarking crews must include health departments with jurisdiction for the seaport and those with jurisdiction for the crew members' residence.

<https://www.cdc.gov/quarantine/cruise/management/technical-instructions-for-cruise-ships.html>

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Content source: [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases \(NCEZID\), Division of Global Migration and Quarantine \(DGMQ\)](#)

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**U.S. Department of
Health and Human Services**
Centers for Disease
Control and Prevention