

Operational Guidelines for International Cruise Ships as Home Ports in Taiwan

Approved by the Central Epidemic Command Center on 2022.10.24

I. Requirements for Outbound Passengers, Cruise Ship Owners, and Travel Agents and Related Operational Procedures

A. Requirements for passengers and required documents

1. Passengers are advised to stay up to date with their COVID-19 vaccinations and to have received recommended doses at least 14 days before embarkation. Accepted vaccine brands are those with the WHO Emergency Use Listing (WHO EUL) or granted emergency use authorization (EUA) by Taiwan's government. Passengers should also have relevant documents (e.g., vaccination certificate, visa, etc.).
2. When boarding a ship, passengers should provide a negative result of a COVID-19 rapid antigen test (RAT) taken within 2 days (on the day of embarkation or the day before that day, except for those with symptoms who must take their test on the day of embarkation). Children under the age of 2 are not required to provide a negative COVID-19 RAT result.
3. Passengers are advised not to board a ship during their self-initiated prevention period. Passengers who wish to travel by ship should obtain a negative rapid test within 2 days before boarding and produce a negative result every 2 days after boarding until the expiry of their self-initiated prevention period.
4. Passengers with chronic diseases (e.g., cardiovascular disease) or discomfort suspected to be COVID-19 symptoms should not only perform self-health monitoring but also inform the on-board doctor and return to the ship for immediate follow-up.
5. Outbound passengers are advised to take out travel insurance and overseas medical insurance to cover costs that may be incurred in the event of an infection.
6. Passengers should comply with epidemic prevention and control regulations of their destination and Taiwan and follow the "Operational Guidelines for Travel Agents Organizing Outbound Group Tours". Passengers should clearly understand and fully agree to the cruise ship's health protocols before boarding.

B. Requirements for cruise ship owners and related operational

procedures

1. Crew members and staff members are required to have proof of having received a COVID-19 booster dose or required doses at least 14 days before embarkation. Accepted vaccine brands are those with the WHO EUL or granted EUA by Taiwan's government.
2. Crew members who have recently boarded should have completed their self-initiated prevention period and undergo a RAT on the day of boarding.
3. Crew members and staff members should take a RAT every 7 days. At least half of crew members should be tested every 3 or 4 days. Crew members and staff members should follow the EU's "Guidelines for Cruise Ship Operations in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic" to manage their health.
4. Cruise ship owners should enhance the lectures or education and training on epidemic prevention and control for crew members and staff members. Hygiene education and training should be conducted regularly for 2 hours or more per week and documented to raise awareness and knowledge of COVID-19. Crew Members and Staff Members should not only implement all preventive measures themselves, but also guide and remind passengers to comply with all preventive measures.
5. Cruise ship owners shall inform and confirm with passengers of the voyage schedule, product descriptions, health protocols, etc. and include relevant documents in the documentation to be given to passengers.
6. Cruise ship owners should inform and confirm with passengers of relevant arrangements and contingency measures to be taken if they are tested positive and are diagnosed with COVID-19 by the on-board doctor during the voyage. The entry regulations of the country of destination and the country of departure.
7. Cruise ship owners should ensure that the ship is equipped with medical staff such as a doctor and nurse practitioner (who can communicate in Chinese is preferred), adequate quarantine cabins (with private bathrooms and air-conditioning or ventilation), personal protective equipment, medicines, COVID-19 (PCR) testing equipment (preferably equipment that provides Ct values), and RAT kits.
8. Please follow the regulations for port operations, pilotage, and

boarding personnel in the port area and relevant regulations for boarding personnel.

- C. Requirements for travel agents and related operational procedures
The "Operational Guidelines for Travel Agents Organizing Outbound Group Tours" should be followed.

II. Rules for Passengers and Operational Procedures for Cruise Ship Owners during the Voyage

A. Passengers

1. Passengers should follow local epidemic prevention and control measures during shore excursions.
2. Passengers are required to monitor their own health. It is recommended that passengers are tested every 3 days during the voyage. Cruise ship owners should provide each passenger with a COVID care package, which includes RATs (preferably approved and authorized for emergency use in Taiwan).
3. For other health management measures for passengers during their voyage, passengers should follow the EU's "Guidelines for Cruise Ship Operations in Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic".

B. Cruise ship owners

1. Cruise ship owners should inform passengers that they should report their symptoms or discomfort to the on-board doctor if they experience fever, cough, diarrhea, abnormal sense of smell and taste, or any other physical discomfort.
2. Crew members and staff members should wear masks at all times outside their personal cabins. Passengers unable to maintain a social distance are advised to wear a mask. Passengers may temporarily remove their mask if they need to eat (subject to change in accordance with the latest mask-wearing rules of Taiwan's Central Epidemic Command Center (CECC) at that time).
3. Cruise ship owners should draft and implement epidemic prevention and control plans on ships and should submit such plans to the competent authority for record keeping.

C. Management of confirmed cases and close contacts

1. Individuals with positive test results and diagnosed with COVID-19
 - (1) Patients with mild symptoms who are isolated on board: They should be examined by the on-board doctor immediately and

undertake a test (PCR or RAT). If they are assessed by the on-board doctor to be able to complete their voyage, they should be isolated in the infirmary until 7 days after the onset of symptoms (or the first positive test result) and released from isolation after 7 days have passed since isolation and a negative test result (based on either PCR or RAT) is obtained. If their voyage is less than 7 days, upon arrival at the port, their cruise ship owner should arrange for an epidemic prevention vehicle to transport confirmed cases (or individual testing positive) to a quarantine facility. Relevant procedures for reporting, examination, isolation, and release of isolation in Taiwan at the time should be followed. Confirmed cases are not subject to the entry rules provided under the "Principles for Confirmed Cases Returning to Taiwan".

- (2) Individuals with severe symptoms: For those who are isolated in the infirmary and are assessed by the on-board doctor to be in need of medical treatment on shore, their ship staff should arrange for them to be taken to a port with appropriate medical resources and should immediately notify the responsible authority in that port. Their cruise ship owner shall assist in arranging medical treatment for such individuals.
 - (3) The costs of quarantine and treatment should be in accordance with the regulations of the country of destination.
2. Close contact of confirmed cases
- (1) A "close contact" is defined as a relative or friend who stays in the same cabin with a COVID-19 case from 2 days before the date of symptom onset (or the earliest date of a positive test result) to the date confirmed cases are isolated.
 - (2) Close contacts should be quarantined and tested (PCR or RAT) immediately. If they test positive, isolation measures should be implemented as described in Point 1. above.
 - (3) If close contacts test negative, they are required to undergo a RAT performed by the on-board doctor before leaving their room each day during their voyage. Close contacts with a negative test result should perform self-health monitoring, leave their cabin freely, and keep a social distance from others. Upon entry to Taiwan, they need to adhere to quarantine measures.

3. Reporting cases

Cruise ship owners should submit a maritime declaration of health before the ship enters a port to report whether there are any confirmed cases of COVID-19 on board and to provide public health information as required by the health authority of the port.

III. Quarantine measures for ships returning to Taiwan (at the home port)

- A. Upon their entry, cruise ship owners and travel agents shall guide passengers to take a designate route in the port to receive RAT kits (for passengers aged 2 or above). Passengers should take a test on the day of entry or on the first day of their self-initiated prevention period (D0/D1) and should comply with the CECC's self-initiated prevention and testing measures (follow the latest CECC rules).
- B. Cruise ship owners and travel agents should voluntarily cooperate with epidemic investigations if there are passengers who test positive after returning to Taiwan.
- C. During the COVID-19 pandemic, those who test positive for COVID-19 on board and their close contacts should take the initiative to notify a port quarantine officer of the Taiwan Centers for Disease Control, Ministry of Health and Welfare upon entry into Taiwan. The quarantine officer will assess whether to conduct sample collection at the port of arrival or to send them to hospitals.
- D. Inbound passengers are required to comply with the CECC's latest quarantine and epidemic preventive measures.
- E. In the event of a sizeable COVID-19 outbreak, or in the event of a health authority's epidemiological investigation revealing a sustained chain of transmission on board a cruise ship, the cruise ship owner should cooperate with relevant authorities in implementing enhanced or preventive control measures such as shortening the voyage and returning to port or adjusting the voyage.

IV. The responsible authority of the maritime and port may, in conjunction with relevant authorities, board a cruise ship upon its arrival to check the implementation of relevant regulations. The ship shall not refuse to allow boarding.