

# COVID-19 (Coronavirus Disease)

CASES ARE RISING.  
**ACT NOW!**



## Crew Disembarkations through Commercial Travel

Updated Dec. 12, 2020 [Print](#)

**CDC is committed to helping cruise lines provide for the safety and well-being of their crew members while onboard cruise ships and as they disembark.** CDC is allowing crew members to disembark from all cruise ships in U.S. waters with certain precautions. Cruise lines with complete and accurate response plans are able to use commercial travel to disembark crew members from certain ships if the ships meet certain criteria set by CDC. Criteria include no confirmed cases of COVID-19 or COVID-like illnesses onboard the ship within the last 28 days. These ships are also able to lessen certain social distancing restrictions onboard. Cruise lines with complete and accurate COVID-19 response plans but not meeting the above criteria will still be able to disembark their crew members using noncommercial travel. Cruise lines must have measures in place to ensure those involved in transport are not exposed to the virus that causes COVID-19 and follow all CDC requirements to prevent interaction of disembarking crew with the public.


## Criteria for Commercial Transport of Crew

Ships that request the use of commercial travel for disembarking crew members will need to meet the following criteria:

- **A COVID-19 response plan** that is complete and accurate.
  - This does not mean ships are allowed to resume passenger travel, but rather that they have met CDC’s requirements to provide a safe environment for crew members to work and to disembark crew safely by noncommercial travel.
  - Cruise company officials must sign an acknowledgment of the completeness and accuracy of their response plan.
- **No confirmed cases of COVID-19 [1] or COVID-like illness [2] for 28 days, as determined by a qualified medical professional.**
- **If the ship has received ship-to-ship transfers, the crew must have come from a ship that had no confirmed cases of 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.**

- **Submission of a signed attestation for commercial travel.**

**Meeting these criteria does not mean cruise ships can resume passenger operations. We don't have enough information at this time to say when it will be safe to resume sailing with passengers. Cruise lines need to establish [additional safety measures](#) before sailing with passengers is permitted to resume. CDC will continue to evaluate and update its recommendations as the situation evolves.**

All cruise ships operating in U.S. waters, or seeking to operate in U.S. waters, must comply with all of the requirements under the [Framework for Conditional Sailing Order](#)  [PDF - 40 pages] and [Technical Instructions](#) even when outside U.S. waters.

As ships become eligible to transport crew members commercially, this page will provide a list of cruise ships meeting those criteria.

1. Confirmed COVID-19 means laboratory confirmation for SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, by polymerase chain reaction (PCR) testing.
2. COVID-like illness means acute respiratory illness (ARI), influenza-like illness (ILI), or diagnosis of pneumonia, or other [signs and symptoms of COVID-19](#).

## Status of COVID-19 Response Plans and Commercial Transport of Crew

As a prerequisite for requesting commercial travel, cruise lines must have a complete and accurate response plan that provides a safe environment for crew members to work and disembark during the initial phases of the Framework for Conditional Sailing Order. CDC has provided feedback regarding all the response plans that have been submitted and is working with the cruise lines to ensure they are implementing the safeguards outlined in their plans.

The following table lists cruise lines that have ships operating or planning to operate in U.S. waters during the initial phases of the Framework for Conditional Sailing Order.

Determination for [color-coding status](#) (Green, Red, or Yellow) can only be made for ships if the following are true:

1. CDC has finished the review of the cruise line's plan, and
2. Cruise line has returned an acknowledgement attesting that their No Sail Order response plan is complete and accurate.

Ships of cruise lines that have not met the above two criteria will be listed as Provisionally Green\*.

*This table is updated once a week every Tuesday. Last updated December 12, 2020*

Parent Company	Cruise Line	No Sail Order Response Plan Status	Ship Name	Ship Status	Com Trav Allow
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<b>Bahamas Paradise Cruise Line</b>	Bahamas Paradise Cruise Line	Complete and accurate with signed acknowledgement	Grand Classica	Green	Yes
<b>Carnival Corporation</b>	Carnival Cruise Lines, Inc.	Complete and accurate with signed acknowledgement	Carnival Breeze	Red	No
			Carnival Horizon	Red	No
<b>Walt Disney Company</b>	Disney Cruise Line	Complete and accurate with signed acknowledgement	Disney Wonder	Green	Yes
			Disney Dream	Green	Yes
			Disney Fantasy	Green	Yes
<b>MSC Cruise Management (UK) Limited</b>	MSC Cruises	Complete and accurate with signed acknowledgement	MSC Armonia	Green	Yes
			MSC Meraviglia	Green	Yes
			MSC Seaside	Green	Yes
<b>Norwegian Cruise Line Holdings</b>	Norwegian Cruise Line	Complete and accurate with signed acknowledgement	Norwegian Gem	Green	Yes
			Norwegian Jewel	Green	Yes
			Pride of America	Green	Yes
	Oceania Cruises	Complete and accurate with signed acknowledgement	Oceania Regatta	Green	Yes
<b>Royal Caribbean Group</b>	Celebrity Cruises	Complete and accurate with signed acknowledgement	Celebrity Apex	Red	No
			Celebrity Eclipse	Yellow	No
			Celebrity Edge	Green	Yes

Celebrity Equinox	Green	Yes
Celebrity Millennium	Green	Yes
Celebrity Reflection	Green	Yes
Celebrity Silhouette	Green	Yes
Celebrity Summit	Red	No
Royal Caribbean International	Complete and accurate with signed acknowledgement	
Adventure of the Seas	Green	Yes
Allure of the Seas	Green	Yes
Brilliance of the Seas	Green	Yes
Enchantment of the Seas	Green	Yes
Explorer of the Seas	Green	Yes
Freedom of the Seas	Green	Yes
Grandeur of the Seas	Green	Yes
Harmony of the Seas	Green	Yes
Independence of the Seas	Green	Yes
Liberty of the Seas	Green	Yes
Mariner of the Seas	Green	Yes
Navigator of	Green	Yes

			the Seas		
			Oasis of the Seas	Green	Yes
			Rhapsody of the Seas	Green	Yes
			Serenade of the Seas	Green	Yes
			Symphony of the Seas	Green	Yes
			Vision of the Seas	Green	Yes

\*Provisionally Green: Ship meets the surveillance criteria for “Green” status, but the ship has not submitted a signed attestation to CDC for crew to travel commercially.

‡Commercial Travel Allowed: Allowed for ships that are “Green” and have submitted a signed attestation to CDC for crew to travel commercially.

Note: The above list includes cruise ships operating in U.S. waters or seeking to operate in U.S. waters during the initial phases of the Framework for Conditional Sailing Order.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Is the process for crew disembarkation under the Framework for Conditional Sailing Order different from the process during the No Sail Order period?

No, the process for crew disembarkation required during the No Sail Order period remains the same during the initial phases of the Framework for Conditional Sailing Order.

### Why is CDC requiring ships to test all crew members during the initial phases of the Framework for Conditional Sailing Order, including those on “Green” ships?

The purpose of testing during the initial phases of the Framework for Conditional Sailing Order is to ensure cruise ship operators have adequate health and safety protections for crew members while they build the onboard laboratory capacity needed to test crew and

future passengers. CDC's guidance under the previous No Sail Order recommended routine testing of crew. However, only 1% of crew aboard ships were tested for COVID-19 during the period of the No Sail Order.

## What steps is CDC taking to make sure ships stay in compliance with the criteria for commercial transport of crew?

CDC will review weekly surveillance data provided by ships, and only those ships that continue to report no cases of COVID-19 or COVID-like illness will maintain this status.

## How can crew members being repatriated from outside the United States return home within the United States?

As long as the crew member's ship does not return (or intend to return) to U.S. waters during the period of the Framework for Conditional Sailing Order, CDC's crew repatriation requirements do not apply. The crew member's company may book the crew member a commercial flight to the United States for repatriation, although [travel should be delayed](#) if crew members are symptomatic, have tested positive for COVID-19, were exposed to a person with COVID-19, or are waiting for results of a COVID-19 [viral test](#). Crew members will be subject to applicable U.S. Department of State, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, and airline requirements. Additionally, some [state, territorial, tribal, and local](#) [government jurisdictions](#) may have their own recommendations or requirements for travelers arriving in their jurisdictions. The U.S. Department of State advises U.S. citizens abroad to contact their nearest U.S. embassy or consulate for assistance returning to the United States. For more information, crew members can visit the [U.S. Department of State cruise ship passengers page](#) .

[After arriving in the United States](#), crew members should take routine precautions to protect others from COVID-19. As cruise travel is considered high risk for COVID-19, returning crew members should take additional precautions, including staying home for and getting tested for COVID-19.

## What other changes can cruise ships make if they meet these criteria?

CDC is committed to helping cruise lines provide for the safety and well-being of their crew members onboard. As cruise ships are able to show they have no cases of confirmed COVID-19 or COVID-like illnesses onboard, crew members will be able to resume some of their daily interactions with fellow crew members.

Some examples of decreased restrictions on cruise ships if they meet these criteria include resuming in-person meetings, events, and social gatherings; reopening bars, gyms, or other group settings onboard for crew member use; and removing requirements to wear face coverings.

## Can crew members on board “Green” ships that are currently in lay-up status in the United States be granted shore leave (leave the ship temporarily) while they wait to disembark?

No. CDC data and other available information about COVID-19 and cruise ships show that it is difficult to eliminate [COVID-19 from cruise ships](#), even with no passengers and a reduced number of crew on board. Therefore, it is not permitted for crew to go ashore and return to the ship without undergoing a 14-day quarantine after boarding.

## Can crew members disembark if their ship does not have “Green” status? If so, what is needed?

CDC’s Framework for Conditional Sailing Order and disembarkation process apply to cruise ships within U.S. waters. CDC permits cruise ships within U.S. jurisdiction to disembark their crew members if the cruise line signs an attestation stating that the cruise line has complied with all requirements for the safe disembarkation of crew.

Ships of cruise lines that have not had any COVID-19 cases or COVID-like illness in the last 28 days (“Green” ships) may be eligible to disembark crew by commercial means (for example, commercial airline flights, ferries, taxis, ride-share services, etc.).

Ships that do not have “Green” status must meet requirements to disembark crew, including:

- Ensure safe transportation by noncommercial means (for example, private or charter flights, personal vehicles, etc. – NOT public transportation of any kind)
- Provide masks to crew members or ensuring they have their own
- Provide instructions to crew members to follow CDC’s [after you travel internationally](#) recommendations after they reach their destination

## What does it mean if a cruise line or cruise ship is not listed on the table above?

If a cruise line or cruise ship is not listed, it means it is not operating and does not plan to operate in U.S. waters during the initial phases of the Framework for Conditional Sailing Order.

Last Updated Dec. 12, 2020

Content source: [National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases \(NCIRD\), Division of Viral Diseases](#)