



Date:

Dear Captain of the M/V XYZ

Thank you for reporting confirmed cases of COVID-19 among persons aboard your ship.

CDC is providing this information to help you prevent the spread of COVID-19 on your ship. COVID-19 is thought to spread mainly through close contact from person-to-person in respiratory droplets from someone who is infected. It also may be possible that a person can get COVID-19 by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it and then touching their own mouth, nose, or possibly their eyes. People who are infected often have symptoms of illness; people without symptoms can also spread virus.

To prevent spread of COVID-19 aboard the ship, please follow [CDC's Interim Guidance for Ships on Managing Suspected Coronavirus Disease 2019](https://www.cdc.gov/quarantine/maritime/recommendations-for-ships.html) (www.cdc.gov/quarantine/maritime/recommendations-for-ships.html). This document provides guidance for preventing the spread of COVID-19 on board the ship, including:

- personal protective measures
- cleaning and disinfection recommendations
- management of sick or exposed persons on board
- disembarkation sick persons and those without symptoms

The following table provides management options for ships and their crew if a person is confirmed to have COVID-19. Decisions regarding the best option for managing an individual ship and exposed crew on board should take into account various factors (e.g., the industry, seaport location, itinerary, and the availability of alternate crew).

	Recommendations for Non-Cruise Ships and Crew
Option 1: Crew Change Out	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All crew disembark for 14-day shoreside quarantine,* then • Private company disinfects ship, then • New crew embark ship to resume operations
Option 2: Working Quarantine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Onboard 14-day “working” quarantine[‡] of all crew without signs or symptoms <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Strict social distancing ○ Mandatory facemask • Crew or private company disinfects ship, then • Resume ship operations with ship remaining close to shore (for potential medical evacuations of crew) • Any symptomatic crew to be isolated in their cabins[§]
Option 3: Temporarily Discontinue Operations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Onboard 14-day quarantine of non-essential crew • “Working” quarantine[‡] of essential crew without signs or symptoms: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Strict social distancing ○ Mandatory facemask • Crew or private company disinfects ship • Do not resume ship operations (i.e., ship stays in anchorage) • Any symptomatic crew to be isolated in their cabins[§]

* Approval for quarantine facility required from local health department

‡ For a “working” quarantine, follow the [CDC Critical Infrastructure Guidance](https://www.cdc.gov/quarantine/maritime/recommendations-for-ships.html). Crew who have been exposed to COVID-19 but remain without symptoms, may continue to work, provided they adhere to additional safety precautions.

§ For emergency medical evacuations, please notify U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) and/or Customs and Border Protection (CBP).



Centers for Disease Control
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Atlanta GA 30329-4027

Please inform the CDC Houston Quarantine Station if any additional crew have [signs or symptoms](#) of COVID-19. If you urgently need to contact us after hours, please call the CDC Emergency Operations Center at **770-488-7100** and ask for the on-call duty officer for the CDC Houston Quarantine Station. In addition, please do not hesitate to call us with questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Corina Garcia Serna

Medical Officer, CDC Division of Global Migration & Quarantine