



Dear partners,

On April 29th the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) issued an update to its Conditional Sailing Order that constructively advances planning to safely resume cruise in the United States.

The Port of Seattle would like to share how these updates affect our cruise season and how we should focus our efforts. Cruise lines will still need to meet the CDC Conditional Sailing Order requirements before sailing can resume. The benefit of the new guidance is additional specificity that allows all of us involved in cruise to constructively advance our planning.

Below are the five new clarifications to the Conditional Sailing Order.

- Ships can bypass the required simulated test voyages carrying volunteers and jump to sailings with paying passengers if the cruise line operator requires that 98% of the vessel crew and 95% of passengers on a scheduled sailing on are fully vaccinated.
- As an alternative, cruise operators who decide not to mandate vaccinations, CDC will review and respond to applications from cruise lines to perform simulated voyages within 5 days, a review previously expected to take 60 days. Depending on the outcome of the simulated voyages CDC would determine cruise operators certification to sail.
- CDC will update its testing and quarantine requirements for passengers and crew on sailings with paying passengers to align with the CDC's guidance for fully vaccinated people. So, for example, instead of requiring passengers take a PCR lab test ahead of boarding, fully vaccinated passengers would take a rapid antigen test during the embarkation process.
- CDC has clarified that cruise ship operators may enter into a "multi-port agreement" rather than a single port agreement as long as all port and local authorities sign the agreement.
- The CDC has clarified guidance on quarantine guidelines for passengers who may be exposed to or contract COVID-19. For example, local passengers leaving the ship may be able to drive home and passengers who have traveled by air to cruise may quarantine in a hotel.

Port of Seattle Next Steps

The Port of Seattle will emphasize four areas of work.

- **Vaccines.** Vaccination is the key to so many industries and facets of life returning to normal. Achieving universal vaccination for crew and passengers would be a major milestone for the safe return of cruise. The Port of Seattle assisted with vaccination clinics for other industries this spring; if we can offer any assistance to cruise, we will as well.
- **Port agreements.** Ports are required to enter into agreements that have approval between ports, cruise lines, and local public health officials. We have begun the process of connecting these parties and will continue to focus on this work.
- **International stop.** Current law requires foreign-flagged vessels to stop at an international port between U.S. port sailings. The Port of Seattle is working with partners on practical solutions

that could enable the 2021 Alaska season to commence even if Canada has yet to permit traveler arrivals at its borders.

- **Enhanced safety measures.** This includes adding proven safety measures and facility improvements at our cruise terminals that are consistent with best practices developed from safely operating SEA Airport through the pandemic.

All of this work requires partnership with public health officials, cruise lines, terminal operators, local labor, Alaska ports, and our international partners. However, these changes do not automatically mean a return to cruise. Depending upon approval from CDC, cruise lines may be able to offer cruises from Seattle mid to late summer for 2021 season.

Economic Recovery Strategy

Safely resuming cruise is part of our region's economic recovery strategy. Cruise is an important part of Seattle's economic recovery, contributing nearly \$900 million to the local economy in 2019. We have been working with our delegation in support of consistency in federal standards to ensure safety for communities, employees, and passengers. This consistency helps passengers prepare for and comply with requirements while helping organizations like ports implement protocols across facilities. We greatly appreciate the efforts by public health officials in managing this pandemic and offering guidance for the safe resumption of cruise.

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