

# HEALTH MEASURES FOR RESTARTING OF THE INTERNATIONAL CRUISES

*Updated May 18, 2021*



## **OBJECTIVE**

The main objective of this procedure is to establish the measures to be implemented by cruising vessels that intend to make international routes visiting Spanish ports, for the prevention of events related to the health emergency due to COVID-19 and carry out adequate management in case it happens.

## **GENERAL RULES**

As a general rule, appropriate measures should be applied to prevent the embarkation of infected people, reduce the probability of transmission on board, detect cases early and handle them properly until they disembark, and identify and quarantine their close contacts.

Likewise, appropriate measures must be taken to limit contact between people. To do this, groups of passengers and crew should be established, as far as possible, each of which will have different schedules for food, embarkation and disembarkation and participation in the activities of the ship, in such a way that there is the least interaction possible between groups.

## **INFORMATION TO PASSENGERS**

Before the cruise starts, the shipping company will inform the passengers and the crew about the recommendations during the trip. Said information must include the criteria for denied boarding (presence of symptoms, having been diagnosed with COVID-19 in the last 10 days or being close contact of a case). In addition, shipping company must report the requirements for shipment in relation to diagnostic tests.

Likewise, during the cruise, passengers should be regularly informed about the measures to be taken during the journey (hygiene measures, diagnostic tests, information on symptoms compatible with COVID-19 and, if presented, the notification circuit to the staff). It can be done through informational posters or messages over the public address system.

Finally, before the ship call in a Spanish port takes place, passengers must be provided with information on the measures implemented in the place they are going to visit.



## SANITARY MEASURES TO OPERATE IN SPANISH PORTS

Each cruise ship that plans to operate in Spanish ports must have a **PROCEDURE FOR THE PREVENTION AND MITIGATION OF HEALTH RISKS DERIVED FROM COVID 19** specifying the measures adopted both for the prevention and control of the transmission of the disease, as well as for the response to events related to COVID-19.

The shipping company's procedure must cover any possible scenario, including a possible complete evacuation of the ship and must include all aspects related to transportation, treatment and medical supervision, accommodation, meals and the eventual repatriation of any disembarked passenger, or crew, for causes related to COVID-19. The costs derived from these actions will be covered by the shipping company, directly or through an insurance company.

### MONITORING THE EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SITUATION

Before the start of the cruise, the shipping companies must monitor the situation of the disease in the destinations they plan to visit, paying special attention to the information regarding the variants, as well as the requirements established by the health authorities to entry into Spain.

Additionally, they must assess the situation in the places of origin of the travelers and crew members, in case it is necessary to adopt complementary preventive measures.

### SHIPPING PROCEDURE FOR THE PREVENTION AND MITIGATION OF HEALTH RISKS DERIVED FROM COVID 19

The shipping company's procedure must be updated regularly and must include, at least, the following:

1. The designation of a person on board as directly responsible for the application of the content of the procedure.
2. The maximum number of passengers and crew that allows maintaining the safety distance on board and ensuring adequate isolation of cases and the quarantine of contacts. It may not exceed 70-75% of the maximum capacity while the health emergency situation continues.
3. Ensure the adequate number of crew in key positions so that the Minimum Safe Manning is respected and maintained in the event of an outbreak on board. In



addition, it must be avoided that more than two crew members sleep in the same cabin.

4. The existing capacity of the ship to carry out diagnostic tests on board, as well as the existence of agreements to carry them out ashore in case of need. These tests are necessary both for the evaluation of suspicious passengers and for the performance of periodic screening tests.
5. The existence of adequate spaces on board for the proper handling of an event:
  - a. Medical facilities with sufficient capacity and equipment depending on the characteristics of the ship. These facilities must have clearly differentiated spaces in which patients with suspected infectious disease can be separated from those who do not have it.
  - b. Spaces designated for the isolation of cases that do not require medical care, as well as for the quarantine of close contacts until they disembark. In this sense, they must reserve 1% of their maximum capacity when the itinerary allows the disembarkation of cases / contacts in less than 24 hours, and 5% if it is not possible within that period of time.
6. The provision of existing personal protective equipment (PPE) on board: surgical or high-efficiency masks, eye protection, gloves, waterproof gowns, etc.
7. The cleaning and disinfection procedure, detailing the products to be used, the dilution and the method of use.
8. The description of the ventilation system in the interior spaces of the ship, especially in the common areas and with the greatest influx of travelers.

The Autonomous Communities where the ports included in the itinerary are located must be informed of the shipping company's protocol through the corresponding Port Authorities.

You should refer to [cruceros@puertos.es](mailto:cruceros@puertos.es) and to each Spanish Port Authority of the planned itinerary a copy of the Shipping Company's Procedure and a Responsible Declaration on the complete adaptation of the shipping company's procedures to these measures and on the continued compliance with said procedures.

## HEALTH CARE COVERAGE GUARANTEE

In case of an event on board, all the derived costs must be covered by the shipping company by subscribing an insurance policy that includes agreements with health centers and other established establishments in which to accommodate the people



who need it. Before the start of the cruise, operators should ensure that this requirement can be met in **all the Spanish ports on the itinerary**. At least:

1. Agreements with healthcare facilities and other establishments on land, including:
  - a. All the needs of patients diagnosed with COVID-19, as well as their adequate treatment and follow-up:
    - In health centers (both conventional health care facilities and intensive care with mechanical ventilation if necessary).
    - In establishments (hotel rooms or apartments for single / double use with their own bathroom on a full board basis).
  - b. The quarantine of contacts in suitable arranged facilities on a full board basis, including maintenance, follow-up and medical assistance if necessary.

The healthcare facilities and accommodation arranged for health care and isolation of cases, as well as for the quarantine of close contacts, must be adequate for this purpose, having planned a sufficient number depending on the number of people on board.

2. Carrying out confirmatory tests on the cases and contacts that are necessary.
3. All possible transfers that may occur, including those made from the ship to the health care center or to the agreed establishment, from the accommodation or hospital to the ship, from the ship to the airport and air transfers.
4. The repatriation of patients / corpses, as well as any necessary crew changes.

## CREW TRAINING

Cruise ship managers must ensure that all crew members regularly receive adequate training to recognize the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and understand the role and responsibilities of each of them in an event.

Likewise, they must receive training on the use of individual protection equipment and the cleaning and disinfection protocols existing on the ship.

Finally, all crew members must be aware at all times that, in the case of presenting symptoms of the disease, they must self-isolate and immediately inform their superiors.



## MEASURES IN RELATION TO PASSENGERS

### **During boarding**

All passengers who embark on a cruise that includes Spanish ports, must be subjected at that time to a series of measures by the shipping company:

1. Check the temperature and observe travelers for signs of illness.
2. They must complete a health questionnaire, preferably in electronic format, that specifies the presence of symptoms or exposure to cases.
3. Any passenger with symptoms compatible with COVID-19, a positive diagnostic test, or who has been in close contact with a case will not be allowed to board.
4. All passengers aged 6 or over must undergo an RT-PCR or equivalent molecular technique within 72 hours prior to shipment, or a test quick from antigens the same day of shipment  
([https://ec.europa.eu/health/sites/default/files/preparedness\\_response/docs/covid-19\\_rat\\_common-list\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/health/sites/default/files/preparedness_response/docs/covid-19_rat_common-list_en.pdf))
5. Passengers who have been vaccinated with a complete schedule must provide the vaccination certificate and I will have it to n available to present it if required.

Any incident in these controls must be evaluated by the health personnel designated by the shipping company and action will be taken accordingly.

### **During the itinerary**

1. A daily temperature measurement will be carried out on all persons on the ship, as well as a visual checking to detect possible symptoms. In situations of suspected transmission, the frequency of temperature measurement can be increased.
2. It will be performed a RT-PCR or proof from antigens valid ([https://ec.europa.eu/health/sites/default/files/preparedness\\_response/docs/covid-19\\_rat\\_common-list\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/health/sites/default/files/preparedness_response/docs/covid-19_rat_common-list_en.pdf)) for SARS-CoV-2 on the third or fourth day of the cruise to all passengers.

### **When disembarking in Spanish port**

1. All passengers who disembark in Spanish port from abroad must comply with the regulations in force at that time for their entry.



2. The temperature of all of them must be taken before disembarking, preventing it if it is higher than 37.5°C.

## MEASURES IN RELATION TO THE CREWS

1. Before starting operations, all crew members must undergo an RT-PCR or equivalent molecular test for SARS-CoV-2, which must be negative to be able to board.
2. Crewmembers who have been vaccinated with a complete schedule must provide the vaccination certificate and have it available to present it if required.
3. All new or returning crew members after a period abroad:
  - a. An RT-PCR should be performed within 72 hours prior to shipment, as well as a rapid antigen test on the day of shipment ([https://ec.europa.eu/health/sites/default/files/preparedness\\_response/docs/covid-19\\_rat\\_common-list\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/health/sites/default/files/preparedness_response/docs/covid-19_rat_common-list_en.pdf)). They can only board if the result of both tests is negative.
  - b. They must be quarantined for 10 days, either in a suitable accommodation on land, or in their cabin without sharing it with any other crew member. This period may end earlier if a PCR is performed on the 7th day and the result is negative. In any case, before the end of the quarantine, an RT-PCR will be carried out, which must be negative to abandon it.
4. A valid RT-PCR or antigen test ([https://ec.europa.eu/health/sites/default/files/preparedness\\_response/docs/covid-19\\_rat\\_common-list\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/health/sites/default/files/preparedness_response/docs/covid-19_rat_common-list_en.pdf)) for SARS-CoV-2 on a weekly basis while on board.
5. If there are any positive results in the crew on board, the case management procedure should be activated and the port health authorities notified.



## PROCEDURE TO FOLLOW WHEN CASES APPEAR ON BOARD

In compliance with the provisions of the International Health Regulations-2005 and the applicable Spanish regulations, any event related to the suspicion or confirmation of cases of COVID-19 on board must be notified to the next Spanish port of arrival by sending the **Maritime Declaration of Health (DMS)** through the Single Window system. They should apply the following measures:

1. Isolation of the patient in previously designated facilities.
2. Identification and quarantine of close contacts in previously designated facilities.
3. Provide information on the risk of transmission of the disease to the people who are going to take care of the sick person on the ship.
4. The crew members who will take care of the sick person must be properly identified and must wear the appropriate personal protective equipment.
5. Cleaning and disinfection of the surfaces with which the patient has been in contact and / or their secretions must be carried out.
6. In the event that the positive is a crew member, all crew members considered as close contacts, must undergo a diagnostic test for active infection for SARS-CoV-2.
7. The entry of the ship into the port will be authorized subject to a health inspection, so that no one will be able to embark or disembark, nor can loading and unloading work be carried out until authorized by the Foreign Health Authority. Once the ship is docked, a health inspection will be carried out observing the adequate protection measures and They will indicate the measures to be taken in each case.

## MEASURES TO BE IMPLEMENTED IN THE PORTS WHERE CRUISE-TYPE VESSELS OPERATE

The safe management of port facilities where activities related to the transport of passengers on a cruise are carried out pursues five basic objectives:

1. Promote the **active distancing measures** between people.
2. **Reduce**, as far as possible, **the physical contact of people with the environment**, implanting in it **reinforced cleaning and disinfection measures**.



3. Facilitate the execution of **prevention and mitigation protocols health risks** that proceed at all times.
4. Encourage the realization of **controls provided by shipping companies** whose execution, for whatever reason, requires **Interior or exterior facilities of the terminal in which cruise ships operate**.
5. Facilitate the execution of the actions derived from the **Management health incidents that have been detected on board a ship or have been detected in the facilities of the passenger terminal**. This may affect passengers, ship crews, terminal shore personnel, or other people, while passing through the terminal.

#### **a) Availability of infrastructure and material resources**

It must be ensured that all the material and human resources of the passenger terminal are oriented towards the fulfillment of the basic objectives mentioned above, throughout the period in which there is a need to prevent the containment of the pandemic. **The fulfillment of the objectives must be compatible with the execution of the usual activities of the passenger terminal**, not related to disease prevention protocols.

Between the **infrastructures and material resources of the terminal** susceptible to use for the fulfillment of the five basic objectives already expressed are:

- Public address and passenger information systems.
- Means of signage, markings, control of capacity and separation of flows.
- Points of location and safe disposal of prevention material: gels sanitizers, masks, handle covers, disposable trolley grips and other prevention material.
- Specific spaces, marked and, if necessary, conveniently isolated, for the realization of:
  - prevention protocols of the terminal itself.
  - Health checks to be carried out on cruise passengers who embark or disembark, and that for any reason should be carried out at the terminal and not on the ship; This space must have sufficient surface for the evaluation of the clinical status of the people and for conducting epidemiological interviews.
  - actions in the face of health incidents that have been detected either on board a ship or in the terminal.



- As many processes as possible should be digitized in the terminal, such as card payments, the issuance of boarding passes, automatic passports and identification scanners, in order to help reduce the time that passengers spend in the terminal and avoid congestion.

The terminals must have a space where they can isolate and guard any suspicious or infected case, already assessed by the Foreign Health services, in the cases in which the ship must set sail to continue the voyage and the health service has not yet taken charge of it. Likewise, the terminals must collaborate with the cruise shipping companies in the execution of their COVID diagnosis and detection protocols, as detailed in the Procedure of each shipping company.

Regarding the use of vehicles, shuttles and mobile machinery, both by terminal workers and passengers, the necessary measures will be followed in terms of cleaning and disinfection of these, as well as in terms of **maximum number of people per vehicle and the number of frequencies necessary in the process of boarding or disembarking passengers** to guarantee the safety of the occupants, even in the case of boarding or disembarking on high-capacity ships.

#### **b) Human resources**

**All terminal personnel must know the action protocols** that are applicable at all times, both for the prevention of the pandemic and for the care of passengers with symptoms compatible with COVID-19. These protocols must be included in the terminal's Self-Protection Plan.

**Terminal personnel must respect the measures established by the occupational risk prevention service at all times.**

The degree of **training** to be taught to the staff will depend directly on the specific tasks to be carried out by each group and requires **permanent update** for its constant adaptation to new regulations and protocols.

As far as possible, ground personnel operating at the terminal should carry out their duties. **tasks in tight groups** or work brigades in order to reduce the risk of contagion by COVID-19, facilitate the traceability of infections in case of occurrence, as well as to ensure the continuity of the provision of services.

In general, for terminal personnel, the necessary measures will be adopted to comply with the document *"Guide to good practices in the workplace"* of the Ministry of Health, as well as its possible updates and particularities that are applicable at all times.

**The shore personnel will wear individual protective clothing** in accordance with the occupational risk prevention plans of the companies involved. With respect to **passengers, the use of a mask in the terminal facilities is mandatory** in



accordance with current regulations (article 6 of Royal Decree-Law 21/2020, of June 9).

### **c) Catering facilities**

In the **catering facilities** terminal must respect the **rules imposed by the competent administration**, in addition to the recommendations in this Guide, in accordance with the requirements to be determined at any given time.

### **d) Toilets**

In public toilets, the minimum number of users must be managed to maintain a physical distance always in accordance with the general regulations of local authorities.

### **e) Physical distancing**

The physical distance of at least 1.5 meters must be maintained in combination with the use of face masks in all internal and external areas of the terminal.

Restriction of access to terminals for accompanying passengers, if necessary, in terms of capacity to maintain safety distances.

Consideration should be given to the use of floor markers to ensure spacing, arrows to indicate directional flow, signage and audio announcements for travelers, and to optimize layouts to restrict the number of cruise terminal users.

Specific lanes or separation of different user flows and division of terminals into designated zones can be considered.

The use of protective glass or plastic panels should be taken into account, in order to protect the health of the terminal workers, in places where physical distancing cannot be maintained.

Consideration should be given to removing items from the terminal that may encourage crowds, for example, tables, benches, etc. When there are permanent seats that do not move, whether indoors or outdoors, there should be a special mark in the place where a person cannot sit to maintain physical distance

When conditions permit, terminal users should be encouraged to use outdoor spaces.

Health promotion information material should be prominently displayed and provided to inbound and outbound passengers.



#### **f) Face masks**

All users of the terminal must wear face masks inside and outside the terminal in accordance with current local regulations.

#### **g) Respiratory label**

Good respiratory etiquette should be encouraged at the terminals: the nose and mouth should be covered with disposable paper tissue when sneezing or coughing, and then the tissue should be immediately disposed of in a non-contact container, and meticulous hygiene should be performed hands.

It is important to have relevant supplies available in different areas of the terminal (e.g. tissues or paper towels and disposable gloves, no touch containers, etc.)

Information on good respiratory etiquette should be provided to terminal users through advertisements, television, screens, brochures, infographics, electronic posters, etc.

#### **h) Hand hygiene**

All terminal users should promote good hand hygiene. The use of gloves is not a substitute for hand hygiene

Stations with alcohol-based hand rub solutions must be available at all entrances to the terminal and in other areas such as restrooms, counters, retail and restaurant areas, and in the boarding area.

#### **i) Cleaning and disinfection**

Cleaning and disinfection should be done according to routine procedures and more frequently for the surfaces most used by terminal staff and users. Cleaning and disinfection of the terminal must be carried out before and after each shipment. In addition, special cleaning and disinfection protocols should be implemented after a possible or confirmed case has been identified, either at the terminal or on board a ship if they used the terminal facilities.

#### **j) Ventilation**

The interior areas of cruise terminals must be adequately ventilated. Natural ventilation is preferable whenever possible.

However, drafts should be avoided as they could create a risk of spreading any aerosolized droplets further.



In case of mechanical ventilation, the number of air exchanges per hour should be maximized together with the supply of fresh air as much as possible.

In this sense, it is emphasized that systems such as HEPA filters are effective in filtering viruses and bacteria, however, they can be a breeding ground in themselves if they are not decontaminated on a regular basis.

#### **k) Baggage handling**

Disinfection of luggage and especially hand contact parts can be considered before loading luggage on board, in agreement with the shipping company.

#### **l) Management of possible cases and their contacts at the cruise terminal**

The **evacuation of passengers, crew or ground personnel** Due to the detection of positive cases or because of their suspicion, from a ship or from the terminal facilities, it must be carried out with the **authorization, coordination and protocols** that impose in each case the **health authorities**.

#### **m) Ship services**

Will be lent **special attention to the supply and provisioning operations of ships**, especially with regard to access to port facilities for people and vehicles that carry out these operations to support ships.

Regarding the delivery of the **ship-generated waste and waste generated at the terminal itself**, In cases where any incident has been reported (contagion or suspected contagion), special hygiene and disinfection measures should be considered, including a **isolation of all waste that may be related to the cases detected**.

#### **n) Coordinated Maritime-Port Community**

In the same way that it was indicated within the "*Recomendaciones de prevención a implementar en las estaciones marítimas de pasajeros y a bordo de los buques para la reapertura del tráfico de pasajeros*", issued last May 2020 by Puertos del Estado and General Directorate of the Merchant Marine (Maritime Authority), and supervised by the Ministry of Health, the Port Authorities must constitute a **Coordination commission in each Port or Port Authority, with periodic meetings, formed by the Port Authority, Foreign Health Authority local representatives, Autonomous Community where the Port is located representatives, Maritime Authority local representatives, concessionaires, authorization holders, port service providers and shipping agents** for the implementation of the measures to be adopted at all times, in accordance with the instructions established by the competent authorities and in accordance with the protocols of action that are applicable in each case.



In order to speed up management of operations and any incidents that may arise, the **Port Authority must act as coordinating entity** between all the parties involved in the aforementioned commission acting in each Port.

The terminal coordination commission will first have to decide which spaces in the terminal are the most suitable for the fulfillment of the purposes established in this document.

In the same way, it must be designated **for each passenger terminal that operates in the Port, a person in charge of coordination and monitoring** of the preventive measures to be implemented, **sole interlocutor with the Port Authority** as far as this matter is concerned.

#### **o) Other indications**

The implementation of the measures set out in the previous section will be subject to the **update of standards and instructions** that the competent authorities may issue at any time.

In the event of the use of temperature control equipment, as well as medical check-up and control equipment, these must have the certifications or approvals required by the competent authorities and their use must respect the standards and recommendations issued by the Ministry of Health.

In the case of using disinfection protocols based on the use of means such as ultraviolet light, nebulization or spraying with biocides, ozonation or other means, these must have the certifications or approvals required by the competent authorities and their use must respect the regulations and recommendations issued by the Ministry of Health, as well as the manufacturer's instructions. The products used in the reinforced disinfection tasks (biocides and other disinfectants) must be included in the list of products authorized by the Ministry of Health and will be used in the manner authorized in each case. The companies that carry out these tasks must be duly authorized by the corresponding Autonomous Community.

Specific procedures should be adapted for the **care for people with disabilities and / or reduced mobility**.

The measures established in this document will be certified within the framework of the Puertos del Estado Certification Schemes, applying the Quality of Service for Cruise Traffic Reference document.