



Covid-19 Insights

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NEW GUIDELINS FROM EUROPE FOR RESTARTING CRUISE SHIP OPERATIONS

EU Healthy Gateways is a Joint Action Consortium founded in 2014 by European Union with the aim of supporting cooperation between member States in order to improve their capacities at points of entry (such as ports or airports) dealing with health threats in the transport sector.

It recently provided an interim advice “for restarting cruise ship operations after lifting restrictive measures in response to the Covid-19 pandemic”. Taking into account the evidence currently available about Covid-19 transmission, several measures are suggested in order to reduce the risk of infection on board during cruise ship voyage, embarkation and disembarkation.

The purpose of these guidelines is to safeguard the health of passengers and crew during the entire process starting from the time of booking and extending until passengers and crew have returned to their homes.

All these measures require the ship to adopt a written contingency plan/outbreak management plan for the prevention and control of possible

cases of Covid-19. This plan shall describe arrangements both for medical treatment and ambulance services and for repatriations and crew changes to be carried out in cooperation with ports. Moreover, arrangements shall be implemented between the cruise line and the local authorities of the home port or the port of call for quarantine facilities, isolation procedures for asymptomatic/ pre-symptomatic infected travelers. Cruise ship shall also arrange an adequate laboratory testing capacity for suspected cases of infection, with a complete training of the crew about Covid-19.

Further measures should be put in place in order to ensure physical distancing on board such as the reduction of the number of passengers and crew.

All these measures shall apply to the initial phase of restarting operations with the supervision EU Healthy Gateways, by means of the inspections specifically provided. Any possible case of Covid-19 must be immediately communicated to the competent authority of the port.

Regarding the measures for preventing the transmission of Covid-19 in board cruise ship, further actions are recommended, such as (i) body temperature measurement, (ii) protection of vulnerable groups, (iii) limitation of interaction, (iv) physical distancing, (v) personal hygiene

measures, (vi) use of face masks, (vii) adequate ventilation, (viii) cleaning and disinfection and so on.



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