



European
Barge
Union



IG River Cruise

***RIVER CRUISES
COVID-19 OUTBREAK
MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES***

VERSION 1 / 2021

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1. Preamble

The purpose of this document is to define and provide general protocols and guidance for preparedness to respond to potential COVID-19 cases among crew or passengers on board river cruise ships. The target audience for this document are river cruise ship owners/operators and any authority involved in the public health response to a COVID-19 public health event on board a river cruise ship, including port health authorities, and local, provincial, and national health surveillance and response systems. This document has been prepared based on the latest available WHO and EU Guidelines ¹, current country specific national guidelines and best practices used in the European Cruise Industry. This document is subject to changes when new guidelines become available.

For River Cruise Ships Outbreak Prevention Guidelines, please refer to the EBU / IG River Cruise 'Guidelines for a Minimum Standard for the Resumption of River Cruises in Europe under COVID-19' dated May 2021.

¹ WHO Operational considerations for managing COVID-19 cases or outbreaks on board ships.

¹ EU General guidance for restarting transportation activities to serve tourism after lifting restrictive measures in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

¹ EU Algorithm for decision making in response to an event of a suspect case of COVID-19 on board ships.

2. Definitions ¹

Suspect Case

A passenger or crew member with acute respiratory illness (fever and at least one sign/symptom of respiratory disease, e.g., cough, shortness of breath), AND a history of travel to or residence in a location reporting community transmission of COVID-19 disease during the 14 days prior to symptom onset.

OR

A passenger or crew member with any acute respiratory illness AND having been in contact with a confirmed or probable COVID-19 case in the last 14 days prior to symptom onset.

OR

A passenger or crew member with severe acute respiratory illness AND requiring hospitalization AND in the absence of an alternative diagnosis that fully explains the clinical presentation.

Probable Case

A suspect case for whom testing could not (yet) be performed for any reason.

Confirmed Case

A passenger or crew member with laboratory confirmation of COVID-19 infection, irrespective of clinical signs and symptoms.

Close Contact

A close contact is a person who experienced any one of the following exposures during the 2 days before and the 14 days after the onset of symptoms of a probable or confirmed case:

- a. A person who stayed in the same cabin/suite as a suspected or confirmed case.
- b. Face-to-face contact with a probable or confirmed case within 1 meter and for more than 15 minutes.
- c. Direct physical contact with a probable or confirmed case.
- d. Direct care for a person with probable or confirmed COVID-19 disease without using proper personal protective equipment (PPE).
- e. Other situations as indicated by local on-board risk assessments.

¹ WHO Global surveillance for COVID-19 caused by human infection with COVID-19 virus.

¹ WHO Operational considerations for managing COVID-19 cases or outbreaks on board ships.

3. Managing a suspect case

1. Notification to the Hotel Director and Captain of a suspect case of COVID-19 on board the ship.
2. The suspect case, together with any person who has stayed in the same cabin/suite as the suspect case, will be isolated in their cabin/suite, with the door closed.
3. Any person who has stayed in the same cabin/suite as the suspect case will be asked to isolate him/herself in a predefined isolation cabin/suite, with the door closed.
4. The suspect case(s) will be provided medical mask(s) and instructed to wear the medical mask whenever they open the door, they will also be instructed to follow cough etiquette, and practice hand hygiene.
5. Infection control measures will be applied in accordance with the Company Gastrointestinal Illness (norovirus) outbreak prevention procedures, and the WHO COVID-19 Infection prevention and control Guidelines ¹.
6. The Captain / Hotel Director immediately informs the Operating Company about the suspect case.
7. The Hotel Director will collect information about close contacts of the suspect case on board the ship or ashore, since 1 day before the onset of symptoms.
8. Upon instructions of the Company, passengers and crew will be informed about the suspect case, and they will be requested to complete a Public Health Passenger/Crew Locator Form (PLF), as per WHO Template (Annex I).
9. Any person who fulfils the definition of a “close contact” will be requested to isolate him/herself in their cabin/suite.
10. If a close contact develops symptoms, the contact will be considered as a new suspect case.
11. The Captain informs the port (health) authority at the next port about the suspect case.
12. A Declaration of Health may be completed and sent to the port authority, together with the crew list, passenger list and PLF's, in accordance with local requirements.
13. The suspect case(s) will be disembarked and transferred, at the first port of call, to an onshore quarantine facility for further assessment and laboratory testing (PCR Test), in cooperation with the health authorities at the port.
14. In case the laboratory test(s) of the suspect case(s) are negative: the ship, passengers and crew will be informed and after approval from local health and port authorities the ship will continue the cruise as planned.
15. If needed, the affected person(s) will receive local medical treatment ashore for their illness, according to the decision of the handling doctor/physician. If the person(s) remains on board then this will be at the discretion of the handling doctor/physician and the patient.

¹ WHO Infection prevention and control during health care when COVID-19 is suspected.

4. Managing a confirmed case

1. If the laboratory result of a suspect case(s) is/are positive, then the confirmed case(s), together with any person who has stayed in the same cabin/suite as the confirmed case, will be disembarked, transferred, and quarantined in specially designated onshore facilities (e.g. hospital, dedicated hotel, private room), in cooperation with the local port and health authorities and/or specialised service/medical provider.
2. Depending on the seriousness of the illness, the COVID-19 positive tested person(s) will be treated and isolated in a hotel, private room, or hospital, as per local and national COVID-19 protocols.
3. Depending on local and national COVID-19 protocols, the COVID-19 positive tested person(s) may leave isolation if he/she no longer has any symptoms for 24 hours.
4. Depending on local and national COVID-19 protocols, any person who has stayed in the same cabin/suite as the confirmed case, must self-quarantine him/herself (e.g. at a private room, hotel, or at home).
5. On board cabins or suites occupied by confirmed cases and close contacts will be thoroughly cleaned (deep cleaning) and disinfected after they have disembarked. The remainder of the ship will also be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected (preferably while guests are off board).
6. All passengers and crew on board the ship will be tested for COVID-19 by PCR or antigen test.
7. Any other confirmed case(s), together with any person who has stayed in the same cabin/suite as the confirmed case, will be disembarked, transferred, and quarantined in specially designated onshore facilities (e.g. hospital, dedicated hotel, private room), in cooperation with the local port and health authorities.
8. A log of all visiting persons aboard is forwarded to local authorities and (if appointed) to the medical service provider for information purposes.
9. The operating Company remains in contact with passengers, or crewmembers being quarantined on land and local authorities for assistance, translation, and repatriation purposes.
10. After approval from local health and port authorities and the health and port authorities of the next port of call, the ship will continue the cruise as planned.
11. If possible, all crewmembers and passengers will be tested on board, daily, in order to monitor the situation and to identify any other person on board that would develop COVID-19 during the incubation period.
12. All passengers and crew remaining on board will be asked to self-monitor themselves for COVID-19 symptoms and be asked to immediately self-isolate and inform the ship's crew (by phone), or a doctor/physician in the event of any symptoms appearing.
13. The health, hygiene, cleaning and disinfection regime on board are raised to the highest level.

5. Annex I: Public Health Passenger/Crew Locator Form

Public Health Passenger/Crew Locator Form

Date of form completion: (yyyy/mm/dd)			
2 0			
<p>Public Health Passenger/Crew Locator Form: To protect your health, public health officers need you to complete this form whenever they suspect a communicable disease onboard a cruise. Your information will help public health officers to contact you if you were exposed to a communicable disease. It is important to fill out this form completely and accurately. Your information is intended to be held in accordance with applicable laws and used only for public health purposes. <i>~Thank you for helping us to protect your health.</i></p>			
<p><i>One form should be completed by an adult member of each family/crew member. Print in capital (UPPERCASE) letters. Leave blank boxes for spaces.</i></p>			
CRUISE INFORMATION:			
1. Cruise line name & 2. Cruise ship name		3. Cabin Number	4. Date of disembarkation (yyyy/mm/dd)
			2 0
PERSONAL INFORMATION:			
5. Last (Family) Name		6. First (Given) Name	7. Middle Initial
			8. Your sex Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/>
PHONE NUMBER(S) where you can be reached if needed. Include country code and city code.			
9. Mobile		10. Business	
11. Home		12. Other	
13. Email address			
PERMANENT ADDRESS:			
14. Number and street (Separate number and street with blank box)			15. Apartment number
16. City		17. State/Province	
18. Country		19. ZIP/Postal code	
TEMPORARY ADDRESS: If in the next 14 days you will not be staying at the permanent address listed above, write the places where you will be staying.			
20. Hotel name (if any)		21. Number and street (Separate number and street with blank box)	
23. City		24. State/Province	
25. Country		26. ZIP/Postal code	
EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION of someone who can reach you during the next 30 days			
27. Last (Family) Name		28. First (Given) Name	
30. Country		29. City	
32. Mobile phone		31. Email	
33. Other phone			
34. TRAVEL COMPANIONS – FAMILY: Only include age if younger than 18 years			
Last (Family) Name		First (Given) Name	
		Cabin number	
		Age <18	
35. TRAVEL COMPANIONS – NON-FAMILY: Also include name of group (if any)			
Last (Family) Name		First (Given) Name	
		Group (tour, team, business, other)	

Basel, May 2021
Version 1 / 2021