



COMMUNICATION OFFICE
Press Release
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Coronavirus: specific measures for cruise ships

Faced with the spread of coronavirus Covid-19, specific measures have been implemented within the framework of cruise ships activities.

Covid-19 is circulating actively in several areas, China (Mainland China, Hong Kong, Macau), Singapore, South Korea, Iran and mainly in three Italian regions (Lombardy, Veneto, Emilia-Romagna).

Cruise passengers arriving in French Polynesia are first checked at their ports of embarkation. Most of them have been on board for several weeks, from South America, North America or New Zealand. No cruise ship came directly from contaminated areas to French Polynesia. Many ships operating in this region have been in the Pacific waters for quite some time.

Out of 330 cruise ships operating daily in the world, 2 of them had reported cases on board several weeks ago, after sailing across Southeast Asia. No new case of infected passenger cruise has been reported since. None of these two ships is scheduled to operate in French Polynesia in the coming weeks.

The control measures and procedures on board ships are reinforced every day. Ocean cruise lines (including members of the Cruise Line International Association) have introduced strict measures since early February, including screening process to determine the history of travel and contact of a person. They deny boarding to anyone who might be at increased risk.

These restrictions are in addition to those introduced by the government of French Polynesia, and other countries, including Fiji, New Zealand, Australia, the United States and Chile. For over two weeks now, stopping places in Southeast Asia have been cancelled by cruise companies, which are gradually changing their routes to areas free from Covid-19-related contamination.

The cruise industry is one of the most equipped and most experienced when it comes to managing and monitoring the health conditions of those on board, with measures for prevention and response in place all year long. The health and safety of passengers and people of ports of call are a priority. The ships have medical facilities and health professionals available 24 hours a day to provide medical care in case of illness and prevent disease transmission.

Cruise companies are in close consultation with health authorities worldwide, including the World Health Organization and the regional health authorities. They are also informed of measures specifically applying to French Polynesia.

Companies are obliged to forward a Maritime Declaration of Health 48 hours before their arrival in French Polynesian waters. They are then required to report to the health authorities any changes in passengers' health or crew members.

In addition, cruise ships will no longer have exemptions for calling at other islands than Tahiti before arriving in Papeete.

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