



MARITIME TRANSPORT CRUISE SHIP GUIDANCE

AIM

To guide how to best facilitate the safe operation of cruise ships in the State of Qatar and, simultaneously, reduce the risk of COVID-19 and other communicable diseases (CD) transmission as much as practicable.

To put in place measures & regulations that cruise ship operators and port terminal operators must abide by in order to protect guests, crew, support staff and residents of the State of Qatar from COVID-19 and other communicable diseases.

The MOPH retains the right to modify or change the guidance based on any changes in the COVID-19 pandemic or other emerging or re-emerging disease situations as deemed necessary.

COVID-19 COMPLIANCE MANAGER

- Each cruise ship must assign a COVID-19/ CD Compliance Manager to monitor and report on compliance with the precautions set out in this guidance and other national Qatar COVID-19 Guidance (see Ministry of Public Health website).

[Information tailored for you Home \(moph.gov.qa\)](https://moph.gov.qa)

CREW & SUPPORT STAFF REQUIREMENTS

- Guests, Crew and support staff shall follow the same infection prevention and control measures set out in the guidance and guidelines.
- It's recommended that all crew members and staff be fully vaccinated or recovered.

INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL

- Full risk assessment should be undertaken to protect ships, crew members, passengers, and the communities visited and establish appropriate safeguards to reduce the risk. This assessment should be formally documented and made available for responsible Authorities and the Ministry of Public Health to evaluate.
- Masks are to be worn by healthcare workers while providing healthcare care and everyone entering the medical clinic.
- Guests, crew members, and support staff must adhere to the measures in the State of Qatar to limit the spread of COVID-19 and other CDs at all times.
- Encourage staff and guests to follow respiratory etiquette. Remind them to dispose of tissue paper properly after use and clean their hands.
- The ship environment, including the equipment and surfaces, should be cleaned and disinfected regularly, particularly before guests' board and after disembarkation.
- It is mandatory to provide cleaning and disinfection materials on the boats.
- Ensure cleaning and disinfecting of toilets between use.
- Ensure the availability of handwashing/ or hand sanitizing facilities is maintained on the boat, at the port, and surrounding areas.
- Keep a housekeeping log of the cleaning and disinfection times.
- Maintain good ventilation and open the windows when possible for indoor areas. Refer to MOPH HVAC Guidance.

INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL

- Clean and disinfect high-touch surfaces such as light switches, doorknobs, handrails, bedside tables, and bedframes daily and as needed with a regular household disinfectant containing a diluted bleach solution (1-part bleach to 99 parts water). For surfaces that do not tolerate bleach, 70% ethanol can be used. Strict adherence to the latest guideline for environmental cleaning at all times, especially in case of potential outbreak [Guidance for environmental cleaning in non-healthcare facilities EN.pdf \(moph.gov.qa\)](#)
- If a case is suspected of COVID-19 or any other communicable disease among guests and/or crew members, the protocols adopted by the Ministry of Public Health must be applied.
- Provide an isolation room / dedicated area for any crew member or guest who feels unwell and contacts the health authorities. This area should be adequately ventilated, with spacious single rooms, with dedicated toilets (hand hygiene and toilet facilities). If single rooms are unavailable, beds should be placed at least 1 meter apart.
- Clean clothes, bedclothes, bath and hand towels, etc., using regular laundry soap and water or machine wash at 60–90 °C with common laundry detergent and dry thoroughly
- The stock of PPE should be kept ensuring its provision to protect crew employees, support staff, and assigned medical team from exposure to infectious agents.

COVID-19 TEST REQUIREMENTS

- COVID-19 test is not required; however recommended that crew members and support staff undergo a pretravel COVID-19 PCR test 48 hours before the cruise start date or a RAT test 24 hours before the cruise start date due to the risk of a potential outbreak. COVID-19-positive crew members must not be allowed to board the ship.

EHTERAZ APP

- Not required
- Individuals must present the health status of the Ehteraz application only when entering public and private healthcare facilities in Qatar.

QUARANTINE & ISOLATION REQUIREMENTS

- Passengers and crew members shall be exempted from the quarantine requirement
- If a COVID-19 case or close contact were identified while in Qatar, following the latest MOPH guidance.

QUARANTINE & ISOLATION REQUIREMENTS

- Follow the food safety code of practice for food services on the MOPH official website:
- https://www.moph.gov.qa/_layouts/download.aspx?SourceUrl=/Admin/Lists/PublicationsAttachments/Attachments/139/Food-service-establishment-Guidelines-Arabic.pdf
- https://www.moph.gov.qa/_layouts/download.aspx?SourceUrl=/Admin/Lists/PublicationsAttachments/Attachments/140/Food-service-establishment-Guidelines-English.pdf
- https://www.moph.gov.qa/_layouts/download.aspx?SourceUrl=/Admin/Lists/PublicationsAttachments/Attachments/141/Food-service-establishment-Guidelines-Hindi.pdf

LEISURE FACILITIES (E.G., HEALTH CLUBS AND GYMNASIUM, THEATERS AND CINEMAS, SWIMMING POOLS, CHILDCARE FACILITY)

- Provide hand sanitizers in several places to facilitate their use.
- Disinfect and sanitize areas and devices exposed to frequent touching before working hours, after each use and on a regular basis.
- Ensure clear signs to maintain hygiene and other precautionary measures in all areas.
- Ensure the availability of facilities for washing/sanitizing hands at entrances, corridors and toilets, and encourage their frequent use.
- Consider closure of the facilities if there's an outbreak
- Follow MOPH Guideline

ON BOARD CLINIC

- It is recommended to have a clinic on board the ship where all staff should follow all IPC measures to stop transmission of any infection on board
- They are responsible for notifying MOPH of any notifiable disease as per MOPH – CDC & HP requirements through SAVES or cdc@moph.gov.qa. The clinic should at least obtain each suspected case's ID data and contact details and keep a record.
- They will manage any case suspected of any communicable disease, including COVID-19, to contain any risk of transmission or refer the case for further investigation and management. They may be subjected to orientation by MOPH CDC staff on the detection and reporting the notifiable diseases/conditions
- They will participate in any outbreak investigation and management.
- The MOPH team has the right to collect relevant information and sample during any outbreak investigation and management.



WASTE MANAGEMENT

- Ensure that waste bins with covers are available and distributed adequately on the boat.
 - Follow the national waste management protocol.
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EDUCATION AND AWARENESS

- Keep staff and visitors updated on COVID-19 safety and prevention information and guidelines.
 - Use MOPH awareness messages and materials.
 - Post signs in highly visible locations across all areas of the ship. (e.g., entrances, lobbies, restrooms)
 - Consider making announcements about safety measures and protocols.
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VULNERABLE GROUP



- The elderly (65+ years old) and people with chronic conditions (including crew members) are advised to take the necessary precautionary measures to stay safe and avoid as many mass gatherings as possible



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