



Alaska Cruise Ship Information Related to Novel H1N1 Influenza (Swine Flu)

What are cruise lines doing specifically to prevent transmission of H1N1 flu?

Cruise Lines International Association, Inc. (CLIA) members have developed the following protocol to help prevent the introduction and spread of influenza viruses including the novel H1N1 influenza strain on board cruise ships:

- Passengers, visitors and crew will be required to complete and sign a written health questionnaire prior to initial embarkation. This questionnaire is designed to screen for symptoms of influenza.
 - Passengers and visitors who are acutely ill with influenza symptoms or have an illness suggestive of novel H1N1 influenza will be denied boarding.
- Member lines will coordinate closely with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to utilize recommended disinfectants and sanitation protocols with the goal of reducing the possibility of viral transmission, including swine flu.
- Member lines will maintain an adequate supply of antiviral medications, personal protective equipment, and appropriate diagnostic test kits, as recommended by CDC.
- Member lines will continue to develop and maintain current CDC case management protocols for influenza illness including surveillance, examination, treatment, and isolation of ill passengers and crewmembers.
 - If a passenger or crew member develops influenza-like illness symptoms en route, they will be medically evaluated and confined to their cabin quarters for the duration of the illness.
 - Ill persons will not be allowed to disembark from the vessel during their isolation period unless they need further medical attention.
- If novel H1N1 infection is suspected in a passenger or crewmember, the ship's medical officer (or designee) will report to the US Quarantine Station closest to the port of expected arrival.
 - In Alaska, this would be the CDC's Anchorage Quarantine Station.

What are health officials doing to prevent community transmission of influenza by cruise line passengers and crew members?

- Anchorage Quarantine Station staff will promptly notify the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services' Section of Epidemiology (SOE) of any suspected, probable, or confirmed cases of novel H1N1 influenza infection among passengers or crewmembers that have been reported to them by a cruise ship.
- SOE will notify local public health nursing staff in the community where the cruise ship is scheduled to dock of the number and status of suspect cases on the cruise ship.
- Public health nursing staff will notify local authorities.
- Public health nursing staff will also notify the appropriate local health care personnel (e.g., emergency department staff) should a patient onboard a cruise ship need further care related to suspected (or confirmed) novel H1N1 influenza infection.
- When the ship arrives in a U.S. port, Quarantine officials will work with the cruise ship industry and local and state public health officials to assist with medical transportation of the patient upon arrival, disease control and containment measures, passenger and crew notification and surveillance activities, communicating with local public health authorities, and cruise ship disinfection procedures.
- The State Public Health Laboratory will assist in laboratory specimen testing of suspect cases.

For more information on CLIA members, go to: <http://www.cruising.org/CruiseLines/index.cfm>

For information on CDC's interim guidance for cruise ships, go to: <http://cdc.gov/h1n1flu/guidance/cruiseships.htm>

For up to date information on the novel H1N1 influenza epidemic, go to: <http://www.pandemicflu.alaska.gov/>