



STATE OF WASHINGTON
BOARD OF PILOTAGE COMMISSIONERS

2901 Third Avenue, Suite 500 | Seattle, Washington 98121 | (206) 515-3904 | www.pilotage.wa.gov

September 10, 2021

**NOTICE TO CRUISE SHIPS REGARDING
STATE OF EMERGENCY PROCLAMATION 20-05 AND
STAY HOME STAY HEALTHY PROCLAMATION 20-25, et seq.
IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19 AND
WASHINGTON STATE COMPULSORY PILOTAGE**

The Washington State Board of Pilotage Commissioners wants to keep you as informed as possible about continuing developments surrounding COVID-19 as it relates to compulsory pilotage in Washington State and Puget Sound Pilots.

Puget Sound Pilots are taking precautionary measures to ensure safety for the pilots and crews. These include:

1. Vaccination of every Puget Sound pilot.
2. Masking.
3. Taking their temperatures prior to accepting an assignment.
4. Reporting to dispatchers and taking themselves out of rotation when exhibiting symptoms consistent with cold, flu or COVID-19.
5. Reporting to dispatchers and seeking medical advice if any close contact exposure to a confirmed or suspected COVID-19 case has occurred.
6. Continuous sanitation at the pilot station and on the pilot boats, including all surfaces and door handles.
7. Practicing pilot distancing and social separation.
8. Use the exterior stairs to gain access to the ship's bridge, when available.
9. Use of Personal Protective Equipment, as needed.
10. Providing a Declaration of Health, if requested.

Pilots, crews, and vessel operators are advised to refer to the next section of this notice from the BPC's Board Designated Physician Dr. Ann Jarris, Discovery Health, MD containing additional guidelines, recommendations, and best practices. These recommendations are intended to be followed prior to and while the pilot is aboard to decrease the possibility of spreading the virus and to protect both the crew and pilots. These recommendations do not replace or modify your obligations under the Memorandum of Agreement entered into between the cruise line and Washington State Department of Health or guidance from the CDC or USCG

Please notify us of any questions or concerns at
(206) 515-3904 or
PilotageInfo@wsdot.wa.gov



13075 Gateway Drive S, Suite 100
Seattle, WA 98168
Phone (206) 309-3507
Fax (206) 826-1814
Email: admin@discoveryhealthmd.com
www.discoveryhealthmd.com

September 8, 2021

To: Jaimie Bever
State of Washington Board of Pilotage Commissioners

Dear Ms. Bever,

In response to recent events involving COVID-19 on vessels and significantly increased community spread nationwide, please see the following recommendations and best practices for reducing the risk of COVID-19 infection and transmission aboard cruise ships as pertaining to the Puget Sound Pilots.

1. Cruise ships should notify dispatch of the COVID status of the vessel prior to boarding of the pilot. This should include if there is a current outbreak onboard, defined as two or more cases with an epidemiologic link in the prior 14 days. In the event a shipboard outbreak is suspected or confirmed, recommendations will be given to test all crew that will be in proximity to the pilot prior to pilot boarding. This refers to crew that are expected to be within 6 feet of a pilot for 15 minutes or crew that will be in the wheelhouse for the transit. This testing should take place within 24 hours of the pilot boarding, preferably as close to pilot boarding as reasonably possible.
2. Vaccination and masking are highly effective methods of preventing infection and transmission. At this point, all crew and passengers who are eligible should be vaccinated against SARS-CoV-2.
3. When pilots board a vessel, all pilots, passengers, and crew the pilot may be exposed to should be masked at all times. A guide to appropriate mask types and use can be found here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/about-face-coverings.html>
4. If the entire crew is not vaccinated, only vaccinated crew should be permitted to interact with a pilot. Unvaccinated crew should not be in the same space as the pilot or present in any space a pilot may be in for at least an hour prior to pilot boarding.
5. Pilots should use outside stairways when available and ventilation should be maximized in all areas where the pilot may be present.
6. All pilots and crew should perform daily symptom self-screening. If symptoms concerning for COVID-19 arise, the individual should be tested and should not work until a negative test is obtained and symptoms are improving or until CDC criteria to discontinue isolation are met. Symptomatic crew should not be allowed in the same area as a pilot, even if masked. Pilots should not be exposed to passengers.
7. Recognizing the limitation of testing options in various ports and onboard and that delays in turn-around-time impairs the clinical relevance of the test, the preferred testing modalities are as follows (in order of preference):
 - a. Lab-based PCR testing when turn-around-time is less than 24 hours or sooner if result needed to allow vessel to sail or pilot to board
 - b. Rapid molecular tests
 - c. Rapid antigen tests



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8. If a pilot, passenger, or crew has a close contact exposure to a confirmed or suspected COVID-19 case, CDC guidance for quarantine and testing should be followed. For a vaccinated person, the current recommendation is to test 3-5 days after the exposure and mask until a negative test is obtained in that timeframe or 14 days have passed without development of symptoms.
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated-guidance.html>
9. CDC guidance for cleaning and disinfecting should be followed.
10. If a pilot has confirmed or suspected COVID-19, all close contacts in the 48 hours prior to the onset of symptoms or positive test will be notified. Given that the explicit nature of contact may not be known, any vessels boarded by that pilot in that 48 hour window should be notified. An investigation between the pilots and vessel should then be undertaken to determine if a close contact exposure in fact occurred and if further disclosure, quarantine, or testing is warranted.

Thank you for your partnership during this challenging time. Please do not hesitate to contact me for further discussion.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ann Jarris MD".

Ann Jarris, MD
CEO, Discovery Health MD, PLLC