

<b>Eastern Seaboard Cruise Protocols</b>	
To be applied to international and domestic cruises operating in NSW, Victoria and Queensland	
<b>Agreed Protocols</b>	<b>Jurisdictional Differences</b>
<b>Pre-Embarkation Traveller Communication</b>	
1.1 All travellers will sign a statement provided by industry at the time of booking, acknowledging the health <sup>1</sup> , travel and financial <sup>2</sup> risks associated with cruising. This should also outline information regarding obligations on passengers to comply with the <a href="#">Australian Government's entry</a> requirements. <sup>3</sup>	No differences
1.2 Cruise lines will provide up to date and tailored information (specific to the cruise type and duration) to their passengers in the lead up to the cruise, noting that passengers are likely to book the cruise some time in advance of boarding.	No differences
<b>Vaccination Requirements</b>	
2.1 All passengers (12 years and older) must be 'fully vaccinated' with a TGA approved or recognised vaccine to board a cruise ship. It is strongly recommended that eligible children under the age of 12 years are also fully vaccinated.  A person is considered 'fully vaccinated' if they meet the <a href="#">Australian definition</a> of 'fully vaccinated' for the purpose of Australia's border arrangements.	No differences between Eastern Seaboard States. However, the Commonwealth's border entry requirements differ slightly in

<sup>1</sup> Health information should include the following: how a COVID outbreak will be managed; impact of COVID diagnosis while onboard; health care available onboard and how to access it; cost of healthcare on board; how retrieval will be managed (including cost of the process) if health needs cannot be supported onboard, and implications for non-citizens; post-disembarkation arrangements.

<sup>2</sup> Travel and financial information should include the following: potential for cancellation of activities due to COVID outbreaks; how COVID outbreaks will be communicated to passengers; potential impact for onward travel and accommodation post-cruise.

<sup>3</sup> Recommended language: Individuals arriving as an international passenger must ensure they meet Australia's international border entry requirements, including vaccination status, visa, and travel exemption requirements. More information is available at the hyperlink in the table, with more detailed information on maritime entry declarations to be made available prior to the recommencement of international cruising to Australia.

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<p>Children under 12 years old who are not fully vaccinated, and people with a medical contraindication to the vaccine, are permitted to travel, however must be included in the 5% threshold of unvaccinated passengers (as per 2.4). This requirement will need to be clearly communicated to customers prior to booking.</p>	<p>that 12 – 17 year-olds are considered fully vaccinated when travelling with at least one adult who is fully vaccinated.</p>
<p>2.2 It is strongly recommended that all passengers are ‘up to date’ with their vaccinations prior to travel (i.e. primary course of a TGA approved or recognised vaccine, plus booster when eligible). Cruise lines will ensure this recommendation is clearly communicated to customers prior to booking.</p>	<p>No differences between Eastern Seaboard States.</p>
<p>2.3 All crew must be ‘up to date’ with their vaccinations (i.e. primary course of a TGA approved or recognised vaccine, plus a booster when eligible). Medical exemptions will not apply to crew.</p>	<p>No differences between Eastern Seaboard States.</p>
<p>2.4 Industry will maintain a threshold of minimum 95% of all passengers on any cruise to be fully vaccinated with a COVID-19 vaccine, with reference to the Commonwealth definition of ‘fully vaccinated’. The 5% unvaccinated threshold must include (1) all children under 12 years old who are not fully vaccinated, and (2) people with a medical exemption to the vaccination (noting that prior infection with COVID-19 is not grounds for a medical exemption).</p>	<p>No differences</p>
<p>2.5 Passengers who have a medical exemption to the vaccine (due to a medical contraindication) are permitted to travel within the 5% unvaccinated threshold. Previous COVID-19 infection is not grounds for a medical exemption, as per <a href="#">Australia’s border entry requirements</a>.</p>	<p>No differences</p>
<p>2.6 All passengers and crew will be strongly encouraged to have the influenza vaccination.</p>	<p>No differences</p>
<p>2.7 Cruise lines will be responsible for verifying the vaccination status of passengers using technological solutions during booking and human validation at the time of boarding.</p>	<p>No differences</p>

<b>Health Screening and Temperature Checks</b>	
3.1 Prior to boarding, passengers must complete a health screening which includes verification that individuals do not have symptoms of COVID-19 or other respiratory illness, and/or are not required to quarantine or isolate (as per current domestic requirements).	No differences
3.2 Passengers who are symptomatic on the day of embarkation will be referred for further medical assessment prior to boarding. Symptomatic passengers must have a negative rapid-PCR on the day of embarkation. Those who do not return a negative test will be denied boarding.	No differences
3.3 While on board, routine symptom and temperature checks of passengers will not be required.	No differences
<b>Shore Excursions</b>	
4.1 Cruise lines must develop COVID-safe protocols or plans for each shore excursion. The plans should outline risk mitigation measures that will be put in place during a shore excursion, which may include additional testing (as per 6.7). These plans must be developed in consultation with local health authorities. COVID-Safe Plans for shore excursions must consider the specific needs of the local communities, including rural, remote, and Aboriginal communities.	No differences
4.2 Masks must be worn onshore in accordance with local Public Health Order rules for local settings and will be highly recommended during indoor onshore activities where passengers cannot safely socially distance.	Variations may apply according to onshore domestic restrictions
4.3 Passengers who have a medical exemption to the vaccine will only be allowed to participate in organised shore excursions and must not undertake independent shore activities. Children under 12 who are not fully vaccinated will be permitted to participate in independent shore activities alongside their fully vaccinated parents/guardians.	No differences

Onboard Public Health Measures	
5.1 Masks must be worn during embarking and disembarking, and indoors onboard where social distancing is not possible. Regular reminders will be critical to ensuring passengers adhere to the recommendation.	Variations may apply according to onshore domestic restrictions.
5.2 Passengers will be provided free access to masks and hand sanitiser.	No differences
5.3 Crew will wear masks while indoors.	No differences
5.4 Cruise lines will maximise the use of outdoor spaces where possible.	No differences
5.5 Cruise lines will put in place capacity limits on venues where physical distancing is not possible, and masks cannot be worn. It will be at the discretion of the cruise line to determine when this is needed.	No differences
5.6 Cruise lines will continue to make efforts to improve their ventilation systems (e.g. upgraded air filters and increased air flow), wherever possible.	No differences
5.7 Cruise lines will follow enhanced cleaning practices (in line with current practices onboard).	No differences
5.8 Cohorting will <u>not</u> be required as it is not possible for cruise lines to make this effective onboard.	No differences
Testing Protocols	
6.1 Passengers who are symptomatic at the time of boarding must have a negative rapid-PCR test before they are able to board the ship (as per 3.2).	No differences
6.2 Passengers must have a PCR test within 72 hours before boarding, or a self-administered RAT within 24 hours before boarding. Pre-embarkation PCR testing must be done at private laboratories.	No differences

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6.3 It is strongly recommended that passengers on cruises of 5 days or longer undertake a COVID test 3-5 days after disembarking the cruise.	Potential jurisdictional differences.
6.4 Passengers must report positive self-administered RATs to local health authorities via existing processes. It is strongly recommended that industry have robust systems in place to capture positive COVID-19 results of passengers and crew while onboard the vessel.	No differences
6.5 There will be no requirement for surveillance testing of passengers onboard cruise ships (unless there is escalation of COVID-19 cases <sup>4</sup> ).	No differences
6.6 Crew will be tested every 14 days, or when symptomatic. Industry may also consider testing crew at the commencement of each new cruise.	No differences
6.7 Passengers will only be tested prior to a shore excursion in the following circumstances: where the passenger is symptomatic, where there has been increased transmission of COVID-19 onboard <sup>5</sup> , and/or where passengers are visiting remote or vulnerable communities (to be identified in the COVID-Safe Plan for the shore excursion).	Potential jurisdictional differences <sup>6</sup> .
6.8 Passengers will only be tested prior to final disembarkation in the following circumstances: where the passenger is symptomatic and/or where there has been increased transmission of COVID-19 onboard <sup>7</sup> .	Potential jurisdictional differences <sup>8</sup> .

<sup>4</sup> The Centre for Disease Control and Prevention provides further [guidance](#) regarding escalating public health measures that may be used in situations of increased COVID-19 transmission.

<sup>5</sup> As per note 4.

<sup>6</sup> In NSW, passengers disembarking from an international cruise must be tested in the 24 hrs prior to disembarkation, OR in the 24 hrs after disembarkation (and must self-isolate until they receive a negative result). These requirements are outlined in the [Public Health \(COVID-19 Air and Maritime Arrivals\) Order 2022](#).

<sup>7</sup> As per note 4.

<sup>8</sup> As per note 6.

<b>On-board Traveller Communication</b>	
7.1 Cruise lines will maintain regular communication to passengers about COVID-safe practices. This will be implemented differently by each cruise line, however, may include regular voice announcements, videos, posters, and daily Captain's announcements.	No differences
7.2 Onboard traveller communication must include regular reminders of the importance of mask wearing where physical distancing is not possible, and reminders on accessing free healthcare onboard and to isolate and get tested when symptomatic.	No differences
<b>On-board Health Care</b>	
8.1 Cruise lines will ensure that passengers have access to free medical assessments for respiratory and other symptoms of COVID-19, including free access to COVID tests (PCR and RAT).	No differences
8.2 Cruise lines will have capacity to provide intensive care level support for COVID cases.	No differences
8.3 Medical staff will receive training in how to treat COVID.	No differences
8.4 Cruise ships will have the ability to safely administer anti-viral medication onboard (pending available supply).	No differences
<b>Close Contacts</b>	
9.1 Close contacts will include those who share a cabin with a COVID positive case, and those who have had close contact with a positive case (as identified by the cruise operator's medical team through contact tracing processes).	No differences

Isolation and Quarantine Requirements	
<p>10.1 The following isolation and quarantine requirements will apply:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• COVID cases: Isolation for 7 full days. Person may leave isolation at 7 days if they have no symptoms. Cases must otherwise continue to isolate until they have been symptom-free for 24 hours. No end of isolation testing required.</li> <li>• Close contacts: Quarantine for 7 full days. Testing on day 1 and day 6 (RAT or PCR).</li> </ul> <p>Should there be any change to the domestic quarantine requirements for close contacts, state health departments will re-assess the requirements for cruise passengers and determine if the change should also apply to cruises.</p>	No differences
10.2 Isolation and quarantine requirements apply equally to passengers and crew and apply irrespective of vaccination status.	No differences
10.3 Industry will provide isolation and quarantine accommodation for guests and crew, in line with existing arrangements. Note that on small vessels, individuals may be required to isolate or quarantine in their cabin, while on larger vessels, individuals may be transferred to isolation-specific accommodation.	No differences
Reporting COVID Cases	
11.1 Cruise lines will notify other passengers of COVID cases on board a vessel where there is a potential risk of ongoing transmission. <sup>9</sup>	No differences
11.2 Passengers will be made aware of the approach to communication of COVID positive cases at the time of booking.	No differences
11.3 Cruise lines will report COVID cases to the port authorities 12 - 24 hrs prior to arrival, or as required by the specific port and jurisdiction. Cruise lines will work with relevant ports to understand their individual requirements. This would apply to international cruises as well as domestic cruises.	No differences

<sup>9</sup> The Centre for Disease Control and Prevention provides further [guidance](#) regarding additional protocols in situations of increased COVID-19 transmission.

<b>Escalation of Health Issues</b>	
12.1 Cruise lines will refer and transfer COVID cases to hospital where they cannot be safely managed onboard, in line with the process required by local health authorities.	No differences
12.2 Cruise lines work with local authorities to develop a notification and referral process for each port. This will outline the containment arrangements for transferring cases to hospital.	No differences
<b>Disembarkation – General</b>	
13.1 Passengers will adhere to mask wearing when disembarking or in the terminal, in line with Public Health Orders for airports and public transport.	Variations may apply according to onshore domestic restrictions
13.2 Industry will stagger the disembarkation of guests.	No differences
13.3 Industry will maintain passenger and crew personal contact information for up to four weeks following a cruise. This information must be provided to Health authorities if requested.	No differences
<b>Disembarkation – COVID-19 Positive Cases and Close Contacts</b>	
14.1 Cases and their close contacts will be able to drive home if they have their private transport at the port and are well enough to travel. Private transport does not include taxi, rideshare or public transport.	No differences
14.2 Industry should enter into agreements with private transport companies to drive individuals to a designated hotel or to their home if they do not have their personal vehicles in the port.	Potential jurisdictional differences
14.3 For those who cannot safely drive home, industry will enter into agreements with local hotels or other suitable accommodation providers to accommodate cases and their close contacts until they are released to travel home.	Potential jurisdictional differences

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14.4 Industry will bear the cost of transport and accommodation required for COVID cases and close contacts. Where this is not possible (such as for small cruise companies), passengers will be informed prior to booking.

No differences

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