



January 4, 2022

To all Cruise Lines with Home Ports in Puerto Rico

Re: New Requirements for Cruise Ships in Home Port modality due to omicron variant

The Puerto Rico Department of Health (PRDH) has the ministerial duty to protect and safeguard the health of the inhabitants of Puerto Rico from diseases that pose a threat to their well-being. Following that duty, during the response to the emergency generated by the COVID-19 pandemic, we have been implementing measures in different sectors, including the tourism sector, helping us prevent, control, and reduce the risk of contagion with COVID-19.

Like the rest of the world, Puerto Rico is experiencing an increase in cases due to the introduction of the omicron variant. Currently, from December 27, 2021, to January 02, 2022: Puerto Rico has a 30.3% positivity rate in molecular tests and an incidence of 571 cases per 100,000 inhabitants, which places us at a high level of transmission. The epidemiological indicators have been the highest reported since the pandemic. For this reason, it is necessary to implement more rigorous measures at our ports of entry that allows us to reduce the risk of introducing more cases in our jurisdiction.

For such purposes, and under the power conferred in me by the law and the Constitution of Puerto Rico to safeguard the health of the inhabitants of Puerto Rico as well as the agreements signed between PRDH, Puerto Rico Ports Authority (PRPA), and the Cruise Lines, since January 16, 2022, all cruises in homeport mode will be required to meet the following requirements for allowing the disembarkation of passengers and / or crew members:

- Passengers should be divided into three main categories:
 1. Puerto Rico Residents
 2. Non-residents that will be staying in Puerto Rico after disembarkation
 3. Non- residents that will be leaving Puerto Rico the same day of disembarkation

Category	Requirements
Puerto Rico Residents	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Guest and crew members must complete the Travel Declaration Form (TDF) before disembarkation at www.travelsafe.pr.gov . Passengers must select option number two (2), which establishes that the passenger would perform a molecular or antigen test at an authorized facility in Puerto Rico within 48 hours after



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	<p>disembarkation. The passenger who does not comply with the prior arrival test requirement will be imposed a \$300 fine.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The cruise line will be responsible for scanning the QR code that the TDF provides. PRDH will not be providing electronic equipment for scanning the QR code. PRDH will provide all cruise lines access to the TDF scanning platform and training.• The cruise line must continue testing unvaccinated guests at embarkation and 48 hours prior disembarkation and symptomatic guest and crew members as established in exhibit 1 of the home ports MOA. Unvaccinated passengers will need to quarantine for 7 days after their arrival, regardless of negative test results.• The protocols and / or regulations applicable to the management and monitoring of cases and close contacts under this category will be those established by the Government of Puerto Rico or the PRDOH.
<p>Non-residents that will be staying in Puerto Rico after disembarkation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Guest and Crew Members must complete the Travel Declaration Form (TDF) prior to disembarkation at www.travelsafe.pr.gov . Passengers must select option number two (2), which establishes that the passenger would perform a molecular or antigen test at an authorized facility in Puerto Rico within 48 hours after disembarkation. The passenger who does not comply with the prior arrival test requirement will be imposed a \$300 fine.• The cruise line will be responsible for scanning the QR code that the TDF provides. PRDH will not be providing electronic equipment for scanning the QR code. PRDH will provide all cruise



	<p>lines access to the TDF scanning platform and training.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The cruise line must provide a COVID-19 viral test (molecular or antigen) to these guests and crew members. Testing could be done 48 hours before disembarkation or at disembarkation. PRDH highly recommends that the test be done by an authorized healthcare professional. Cruise lines that choose to provide a self-administered test to their passengers must ensure that the test is performed under the supervision of a proctor on the same day of disembarkation.• However, the cruise line must continue testing unvaccinated guests at embarkation and 48 hours prior disembarkation and symptomatic guest and crew members as established in exhibit 1 of the home ports MOA. Unvaccinated passengers will need to quarantine for 7 days after their arrival, regardless of negative test results.• Isolation requirements:<ul style="list-style-type: none">- According to PRDH guidelines: guests and crew members that test positive will need to isolate for 10 days if staying in Puerto Rico longer than 11 days.- According to CDC recommendations^[1]:- guests and crew members staying in Puerto Rico for less than 5 days will need to isolate for 5 days and, if asymptomatic, at day 6 will be able to leave Puerto Rico.- If staying longer than 5 days but less than 10 days, you will need to isolate yourself until leaving Puerto Rico.• Quarantine requirements:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• If close contacts have received the third dose, completed the
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	<p>primary series of Pfizer or Moderna vaccine within the last 6 months, or completed the primary series of J&J vaccine within the previous 2 months, must wear a mask around others for 10 days and test on day 5, if possible.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• If close contacts completed the primary series of Pfizer or Moderna vaccine 6 months ago and are not boosted, completed the primary series of J&J over 2 months ago and are not booster or are unvaccinated, must quarantine for 7 days and test on day 5 according to PRDH guidelines. If the close contact is symptomatic, must remain in quarantine.• Cruise line or guest travel insurance will be responsible, as established in exhibit 1 of the MOA for home ports for covering costs associated with the cases and contacts accommodation, transportation, and medical services. The cruise line will be responsible for coordinating housing, transportation, and medical services and for providing any social assistance that the cases or close contacts requires during the isolation or quarantine period for example, food, internet access, access to personal hygiene items and necessities, psychological services, if necessary, among others.• Neither the Government of Puerto Rico or PRDOH will be responsible for providing nor coordinating the services described above.
Non- residents that will be leaving Puerto Rico the same day of disembarkation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Will not be required to undergo a disembarkation test if guest or crew member is leaving Puerto Rico within



	<p>the 12 hours after the cruise dock in Puerto Rico.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The cruise line will need to provide a list of those guests and crew members leaving Puerto Rico the same day of disembarkation at least 24 hours before docking in Puerto Rico.• However, the cruise line must continue testing unvaccinated guests at embarkation and 48 hours before disembarkation and symptomatic guest and crew members as established in exhibit 1 of the home ports MOA.• Isolation requirements:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Guest and crew members that test positive will need to isolate for 10 days, if staying in Puerto Rico longer than 11 days.• Guest and crew members staying in Puerto Rico less than 5 days will need to isolate for 5 days and, if asymptomatic, at day 6 will be able to leave Puerto Rico.• If staying longer than 5 days but less than 10 days, will need to isolate until leaving Puerto Rico.• Quarantine requirements:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• If close contacts have received the third dose, completed the primary series of Pfizer or Moderna vaccine within the last 6 months or completed the primary series of J&J vaccine within the previous 2 months, must wear a mask around others for 10 days and test on day 5, if possible.• If close contacts completed the primary series of Pfizer or Moderna vaccine over 6 months ago and are not boosted, completed the primary series of J&J over 2 months ago
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	<p>and are not booster or are unvaccinated, must quarantine for 5 days, continue to wear a mask around others for 5 additional days and test on day 5 if possible. If the close contact is symptomatic, must remain in quarantine.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cruise line or guest travel insurance will be responsible, as established in exhibit 1 of the MOA for home ports for covering costs associated with the cases and contacts accommodation, transportation, and medical services. The cruise line will be responsible for coordinating housing, transportation, and medical services and for providing any social assistance that the cases or close contacts require during the isolation or quarantine period for example, food, internet access, access to personal hygiene items and necessities, psychological services, if necessary, among others.• Neither the Government of Puerto Rico or PRDOH will be responsible for providing nor coordinating the services described above.
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These requirements will go into effect for cruise ship docking and sailing from Sunday, January 16, 2022, and forward until further notice. The vessel that does not meet the requirements outlined here will not be allowed to disembark its passengers and/or crew members in Puerto Rico. All the requirements in exhibit 1 of the MOA for home ports that are not affected by the provisions herein must remain in effect, even beyond January 15, 2022, which is when the CDC Conditional Sailing Order will transition to a voluntary program. This extension will also apply to the requirements established in exhibit 1 of the MOA for the cruise line with the port of call in Puerto Rico and those requirements established for this modality in the letter of December 26, 2021.

Cordially,


Carlos R. Mellado López, MD
Secretary of Health