



# CDC mandates on-board testing

**THE** United States' Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) has provided "technical instructions" for the mitigation of COVID-19 among cruise ship crews, as part of its guidance for the new Framework for Conditional Sailing Order issued last week (**CW** 02 Nov).

The update confirms by 29 Dec - 60 days after the lifting of the previous no sail order - cruise lines "must implement onboard testing capabilities to be able to test all symptomatic travellers (crew members and future passengers) and their close contacts for SARS-CoV-2".

All cruise ships must procure rapid PT-PCR point of care equipment to test symptomatic travellers and crew on board, with any technical items required to have been evaluated by the Food & Drug Administration.

Prior to obtaining the PCR

test, equipment operators must contact the CDC, with antigen testing not recommended because it is more likely to miss COVID-19 cases.

While onboard laboratories are being established, all crew members currently on board ships must have specimens collected for testing, which are required to be tested shoreside at a certified PCR testing laboratory.

Crew members who join ships in the lead-up to any restart must be tested on embarkation and also then immediately quarantine on the ship for 14 days.

While in quarantine, any confirmed cases and close contacts, as well as symptomatic crew members, must be accommodated in single-occupancy cabins with private bathrooms, with meals to be packaged in disposable materials with single-use cutlery and

delivered without any face-to-face interaction.

A colour code system will be used by the CDC to classify each ship's status, with "green ships" to have no confirmed cases of COVID-19 for 28 days, no crew member transfers from a ship with cases in 28 days, and the 14-day quarantine of embarking crew members.

Ships will become "yellow" if they have one or more suspected cases of COVID-19 pending PCR test results, while "red ships" are those with confirmed cases in the last 28 days.

Social events, group training, crew bars, gyms and in-person employee meetings are only permitted on green ships.

The CDC is expected to provide further updates of procedures in the coming weeks as it develops protocols around additional phases of resumptions.

### Cruise Weekly today

Cruise Weekly today features three pages of all the latest cruise industry news.

### Live Ponant event

**PONANT'S** next live online event, Unchartered Antarctica onboard *Le Commandant-Charcot*, will detail the upcoming ship's inaugural season.

Attendees will hear from Head of Expeditions & Sustainability Nicolas Dubreuil and Head of Expeditions Asia Pacific Mick Fogg, in the follow-up to Ponant's Kimberley's Big 5 event in Sep (**CW** 26 Aug).

Unchartered Antarctica will take place on 19 Nov, and will be hosted by National Business Development Manager Craig Farrell.

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## Volunteers may be sought by RCI

**ROYAL** Caribbean International (RCI) will need volunteers for its trial cruises ahead of any American restart, the cruise line has said.

As part of the United States' Centers for Disease Control & Prevention's restart framework (**CW** 02 Nov), a trial cruise(s) must be undertaken, on which employees and volunteers will be used as stand-in passengers to test safety and health protocols.

Royal Caribbean International said the first cruises to be offered in 2021 may be short sailings to its private island CocoCay.

It is expected RCI's recently refurbished, Caribbean-focused ships *Mariner of the Seas* and *Navigator of the Seas* will be the vessels to serve the initial routes.

## Fred forks out food



**FRED.** Olsen Cruise Lines has received the unsung hero award from the Scottish Passenger Agents' Association after a £33,000 food donation to charity network FareShare (**pictured**).

The cruise line donated more than 30 pallets of food from its fleet, which at the time consisted of *Balmoral*, *Braemar*, *Black*

*Watch* and *Boudicca*, during its layup in Rosyth.

"We feel extremely honoured to have received this award," Fred Olsen said.

"Our ships have been laid up in Scotland since we paused our operations in Mar, and this was the perfect way for us to be able to say thank you".

## Seabourn positive

**SEABOURN** Cruise Line is seeing a strong booking volume for its 2022 world cruise (**TD** 16 Sep).

The voyage is already more than 50% sold on segments sailing through to the halfway point in Shanghai.

There is also limited space remaining for those wishing to depart from Los Angeles, the 145-day voyage's starting point.

"Given the uncertainty in the world, our Seabourn guests and travel advisors are showing a desire to book a vacation further into next year and to make that trip something very special," said President Josh Leibowitz.

"The World Cruise in 2022 is a signature event and the demand for this cruise has demonstrated that interest," he added.

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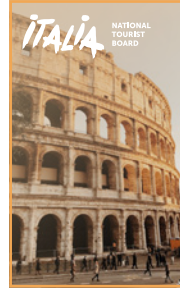
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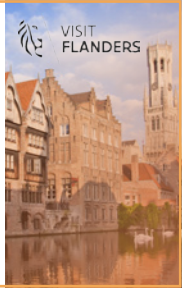
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## Bahamas protocols

**THE** Bahamas has debuted updated travel and entry protocols, with coronavirus testing aligned with the United States' Centers for Disease Control & Prevention's restart framework (**CW** 02 Nov).

From the beginning of this month, the Bahamas is requiring all travellers to obtain a COVID-19 RT PCR test five days prior to arrival, apply for a Bahamas Health Travel Visa, complete a daily online health questionnaire for symptom tracking purposes for the duration of the visit, take a COVID-19 rapid antigen test on the fifth day of the visit (unless departing that day), and to constantly be masked and observe social distancing.

## Escorted Emmylou tours



**MURRAY** River Paddlesteamers has announced three new escorted tours aboard *Emmylou* across this year and the next.

Departing from Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane or Adelaide, all tours include a three- or four-night cruise from Echuca, and are available now for booking via the

cruise line's partners.

The first to depart will be Zeppelin Travel's seven-day Authentic Australian Escape from \$4,795 per person, departing 12 Dec.

Featuring a two-night stay in Echuca and private flight on a Douglas DC-3, this ex-Brisbane tour also features a wharf-to-winery lunch cruise, which comes in addition to the four-night *Emmylou* departure - [CLICK HERE](#) for more.

APT's Botanica World Discoveries brand is running an eight-day tour, priced at \$5,995 per person, visits a number of Victorian towns, such as Beechworth, Bright, Castlemaine, and Bendigo, and will depart twice, on 11 Sep and 22 Oct 2021 ex Melbourne - [CLICK HERE](#).

Fun Over 50 is a chartering the vessel for a nine-day tour, priced from \$4,890, which includes a three-night cruise and four nights in Echuca, as well as visits to Swan Hill, Bendigo and more.

The tour departs 14 Nov 2021 ex Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane or Adelaide, with \$400 per couple savings offered until the end of Jan - [CLICK HERE](#).



**THE** cruise industry may have fallen on hard times, but so has the airline sector, with Boeing having recently sold its' US\$13 million superyacht.

The 23-year-old vessel *Daedalus* (pictured) is in blue and white, Boeing's corporate colours, and has room for 10 guests in five cabins, as well as seven crew members.

It has reportedly been sold to a Californian developer.



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