



February 12, 2020

Dear U.S. Passenger/Crew Member,

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is working with the Japanese government and health officials to ensure precautions are taken to protect your health. We understand that this is a stressful time for all those onboard the Diamond Princess cruise ship, as well as your friends and family back home.

Over the next several days, Japanese health officials are planning a voluntary disembarkation of passengers. It is our understanding that this will be a phased approach, with the most medically vulnerable passengers in the first phase, including older adults with pre-existing health conditions. Please be aware that this process will take time, and not everyone may be offered a chance to disembark before the end of the quarantine period.

Passengers in the first group will be tested for the 2019 novel coronavirus. If the test is positive, you will be transported to a local hospital for further evaluation and isolation. If the test is negative, you will be given the option to leave the ship and be transported to a quarantine housing facility. At this time, if you do not wish to go to the quarantine facilities, you must remain on the ship.

Passengers should stay in their cabin until notified. When you are called, please always wear your mask and keep a 6-foot distance from others, as possible.

As you decide whether to leave the ship for the quarantine facilities, here is more information about the quarantine facilities:

- The housing facility includes individual rooms and individual bathrooms
- There are no clinics at these facilities. Prescription medication will be provided, but medical care will require transport to a hospital or clinic.
- The food available will not accommodate dietary preferences but will accommodate certain medical conditions. The meals provided will be bento-style boxes.

We understand that this is an incredibly stressful situation. We appreciate your understanding and patience as passengers are tested and their movements planned accordingly. There are over 2,500 passengers on the cruise ship, and this will take time to implement in a way that minimizes the risk of spreading infection.

There will be more information regarding the logistics for returning to the United States provided in the coming days and at the end of the quarantine period. In the meantime, please follow the recommendations for protecting your health and the health of others while onboard that we provided in our previous letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anne Schuchat".

Anne Schuchat, MD (RADM, USPHS, RET)

Principal Deputy Director, CDC