

Fact Sheet: The Cruise Community and COVID-19

FACT: COVID-19 is a global pandemic, not caused by or limited to any one industry.

COVID-19 can spread in any setting where people come together to socialize and enjoy shared experiences, which includes cruise ships, as well as restaurants, hotels, movie theaters, and the like. It also spreads in other transportation and hospitality sectors where people have close contact with others who are infected, such as airlines, subways and trains, buses and ride share vehicles.

While it is easy to focus on cruising because of its high profile and transparent reporting standards, the fact is cruising is neither the source nor the cause of COVID-19. What is different about cruise ships compared to other settings is that no other sector or industry has such stringent reporting requirements coupled with the presence on board of credentialed doctors and nurses to provide medical surveillance. While it may be true that the world knows more about how COVID-19 impacted cruise ships than they do about how it has affected other sectors, it would be a false assumption to connect meticulous transparency and reporting to a higher frequency of infection.

FACT: The cruise industry is one of the most vigilant industries as it relates to sanitation and public health protocols.

CLIA member cruise ships are cleaned and sanitized, under normal circumstances, with a frequency that is nearly unparalleled in other settings. Multiple times each day, cruise ship crews clean and sanitize surfaces known for transmitting germs, such as handrails, door handles, faucets, etc. CLIA member cruise lines also help educate cruise passengers on personal health practices, reminding passengers to wash their hands regularly and making hand sanitizer readily available throughout public spaces onboard.

Moreover, CLIA ocean-going cruise ships are the only form of travel or passenger transportation that must be medically equipped to care for passengers and crew onboard. As a condition of membership within CLIA, oceangoing member cruise lines are required to fit their ships with medical facilities that meet or exceed the standards set forth by the American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP), which require that doctors and medical personnel be available onboard 24/7. Additionally, cruise ships must have the ability to isolate contagious passengers, and they must have an examination room, an intensive care room and equipment for processing labs, monitoring vital signs and administering medications.

FACT: CLIA cruise line members took immediate and aggressive action in response to COVID-19, based upon available guidance from prevailing health authorities.

From the beginning of this global public health crisis, CLIA cruise line members worked under the guidance of international and national health authorities to adopt policies and protocols, such as travel, contact, and symptom screening that went above and beyond the actions of other industries. These measures were strengthened repeatedly as new information and guidance became available from prevailing health authorities, culminating with the voluntary suspension of passenger operations in mid-

March, making the cruise industry one of the first to take such action. This suspension occurred within 48 hours of the World Health Organization's pandemic declaration.

FACT: The cruise industry is a vital artery for global economies, generating over \$150 billion every year and supporting over 1.17 million jobs worldwide.

Cruise activity supports over 1.17 million jobs across a wide cross-section of industries and sectors, from ground and air transportation to food and beverage, lodging, manufacturing, hotels, professional services and a broad range of suppliers and service providers throughout the world. Unfortunately, the impacts of COVID-19 are being felt across this vast community, with up to 2,500 jobs lost each day that cruises are not operating. When the time is right for cruise operations to safely resume, cruising will be an important contributor to fueling the global economic and societal recovery.

FACT: Cruise lines are required to operate under a robust system of local, national and international laws and regulations.

The cruise industry is regulated by the International Maritime Organization (IMO), flag states and port states (e.g., US Coast Guard, CDC, FMC, and EPA for the US) among others. In addition, as a requirement of membership, all CLIA cruise line members must adhere to robust set of policies and practices which undergo constant review and improvement and often exceed what international, national, and local laws require.

FACT: Cruise lines pay similar tax rates to other comparable industries in the United States every year.

Cruise industry spending in the United States supported more direct taxes per dollar of output than certain other sectors, including manufacturing and construction. Taxes supported by cruise industry spending are broadly consistent with other industries, partly as a result of the substantial head taxes and port charges that are paid by cruise lines. In fact, cruise industry spending in the U.S. in 2019 supported approximately \$2.6 billion in direct taxes and more than \$7.2 billion in total taxes (including direct, indirect, and induced) for U.S. federal, state, and local governments. On average, each \$1 million the cruise industry spends in the U.S. supports approximately \$102,000 of direct federal, state, and local tax revenue.

FACT: Cruise lines provide meaningful and rewarding employment opportunities for crewmembers.

CLIA cruise line members take pride in the ability to deliver meaningful employment opportunities to a truly global workforce with high satisfaction and retention rates. Cruise lines invest heavily to attract the best people, offering competitive wages, benefits and opportunities for career advancement—not to mention the opportunity to see and travel the world. CLIA oceangoing cruise line members must fully comply with the International Labour Organization's Maritime Labour Convention (MLC), which sets labor standards for hours of work and rest, health and safety, as well as living conditions onboard.

FACT: The cruise industry is a leader in responsible tourism and a pioneer in maritime environmental protection.

The cruise industry demonstrates its commitment to responsible tourism across five key areas and has

the data and research to back up its investments, advancements, and progress in each of these categories:

- Environmental Sustainability
- Destination Stewardship
- Health and Safety
- Workforce
- Economic and Social Impact

Worldwide, the cruise industry has already invested more than \$22 billion in ships with new technologies and cleaner fuels to reduce air emissions and achieve greater energy efficiencies. Many of these technologies, such as shore-side power, LNG or exhaust gas cleaning systems, did not even exist five to ten years ago.

FACT: Cruises will sail again – stronger and better than ever – when the time is right.

COVID-19 is an unprecedented event which, by definition, did not come with a roadmap for how governments, businesses, and people should respond. With hindsight, however, comes powerful knowledge, which will undoubtedly inform and shape the future of cruising.

CLIA cruise line members are using this time during the voluntary suspension of commercial operations to focus on developing plans for the future, including consideration of enhanced boarding procedures, additional onboard public health and sanitation protocols, monitoring capabilities, quarantine arrangements and shoreside care for guests and crew. Timing for the return to operations will be based on a number of factors, including guidance from prevailing global health authorities and governments.

Given the significant economic impact of the cruise industry, and the nearly 1.2 million jobs it supports, cruising will be a significant contributor to fueling the much-needed economic recovery.