

Return to Cruise FAQs

**Please note that the following information, policies and links are subject to change.*

1. Are cruise ships returning to Atlantic Canada's ports?

Yes! After a two-season pause due to COVID-19, cruise ships will be returning to Atlantic Canadian waters and ports this Spring with most visits occurring in the fall. We are so excited to safely welcome these visitors back to our region.

2. What will ports be doing to keep communities safe throughout the return of cruise with the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic?

Community, passenger and crew safety is the top priority of the cruise ship industry. Ports, tourism operators and other stakeholders will be following all relevant provincial, Public Health Agency of Canada and Transport Canada safety guidelines, working closely together to ensure communities are protected.

3. What protocols are cruise guests required to adhere to before, during and after their trip?

Cruise ships have very strong safety protocols in place including testing, medical, isolation and quarantine facilities on site, and vaccination policies.

Crew and passengers will be fully vaccinated with limited exemptions and provide a negative COVID-19 test 72 hours prior to boarding the ship, with continued testing as needed.

Cruise ships will be required to create and maintain ship to shore checklists outlining procedures in place to limit the spread of COVID-19 while at a port of call, and ensure the checklist is signed by port authorities and ready for sharing with the Minister and public health authorities upon request. All crew and passengers will also be required to comply with measures put forth by local authorities in places like shops, bars, restaurants, etc. while visiting.

For additional resources and information on policies, visit:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/publications/diseases-conditions/entering-leaving-canada-cruise-ship-covid-19.html>

<https://tc.canada.ca/en/ministerial-orders-interim-orders-directives-directions-response-letters/interim-order-no-3-respecting-vessel-restrictions-vaccination-requirements-due-coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19>

<https://tc.canada.ca/en/marine-transportation/marine-safety/ship-safety-bulletins/measures-persons-other-passengers-canadian-vessels-foreign-passenger-vessels-operating-canadian-waters-mitigate-spread-covid-19-ssb-no-17-2021-modified-april-1-2022>

<https://tc.canada.ca/en/marine-transportation/marine-safety/ship-safety-bulletins/measures-support-safe-cruise-travel-canada-ssb-no-18-2021-modified-april-1-2022>

4. Has cruising resumed elsewhere?

Yes! Since July 2020, over 5 million passengers have cruised to various destinations around the world. And as of February 2022, over 85 countries are currently open for cruise tourism and that number is growing each week.

For more on the return of cruise, visit:

<https://cruising.org/en/news-and-research/press-room/2022/january/cruise-industry-2022-outlook-report-quantifies-value-of-cruise-tourism>

5. How can I get updates about cruise in Atlantic Canada?

Keep in touch by signing up for our newsletter, following us on social and visiting our website for the most up-to-date information regarding the safe return of cruise.

6. What impact does cruise tourism have on the economy in Atlantic Canada?

The cruise industry is a key part of Atlantic Canada's economy, creating 2,086 jobs and contributing \$347.2 million to the region each year.

Like many other industries, tourism has suffered greatly during the pandemic. The safe resumption of cruise ship visits is important to Atlantic Canada's tourism sector, providing many millions of dollars of business to tourism operators as well as small businesses like retail stores, restaurants, craft breweries, coffee shops and others.

We will be pleased to see these visitors enjoying all that our region has to offer once again.



Atlantic Cruise Resumption, Stakeholder Discussion

March 31, 2022

Frequently Asked Questions

1. When will the requirements for cruise resumption be finalized?

Transport Canada (TC) announced [Interim Order No. 3](#) on March 31, 2022, respecting vessel restrictions and vaccination requirements due to the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19).

2. Who receives COVID-19 Management Plans?

[Interim Order No. 3](#) states vessels notify the Minister of Transport Canada that a COVID-19 Management Plan has been implemented. A copy of the plan must be maintained on board the vessel and must be made available to the Minister of Transport upon request.

3. Who receives and signs the ship-to-shore checklist?

The Authorized Representative of a cruise ship certified to carry more than 100 persons with overnight accommodations, before commencing operations at their first port of call in Canada or first entering Canadian waters, must attest to the Minister that they have developed a checklist and that it has been **co-signed with the port authorities** where the cruise ship is scheduled to call and will be shared with public health authorities upon request. [Link](#).

4. What are the requirements for Travel to Canada, and what does fully vaccinated mean?

To qualify as a fully vaccinated traveller to Canada, you must:

have received at least 2 doses of a vaccine accepted for travel, a mix of 2 accepted vaccines or at least 1 dose of the Janssen/Johnson & Johnson vaccine. For more information, please refer to the travel requirements found in the following link:

<https://travel.gc.ca/travel-covid/travel-restrictions/covid-vaccinated-travellers-entering-canada>

5. How do we report COVID-19 and how is information communicated?

The Public Health Agency of Canada requires every vessel to submit a Maritime Declaration of Health within 48 to 24 hours before entering Canada through an online portal. An additional report concerning vessel information, passengers and crew must be sent to Transport Canada's Federal Vaccination Mandate portal.

See "Reporting" within TC Ship Safety Bulletin [No. 17/2021](#) & [No. 18/2021](#).

6. What is the Pre-embarkation requirement?

A negative COVID-19 antigen test two days before boarding, plus see TC Ship Safety Bulletin [No. 17/2021](#) & [No. 18/2021](#).

7. How are COVID-19 patients disembarked?

This is determined through a collaboration between port authorities, agents, cruise lines, and provincial health authorities.

8. Will the Public Health Agency of Canada publish a colour coding dashboard to classify COVID-19 situations on board a cruise ship?

Currently the Public Health Agency of Canada does not have plans for a publicly available dashboard.