



*Government of Bermuda*  
Office of the Transport Planning Section  
Ministry of Transport

---

**REVISED For Period Ending 31 January 2022**

## **Bermuda's 2021 Cruise Ship Health and Safety Imperatives & Travel Authorisation Process**

Bermuda has just experienced a 'fourth wave' of COVID-19 positives cases and is currently listed at Level 4 on the CDC travel advisory list. It is expected that Bermuda's status will be reduced in the coming weeks as there are only 258 active cases as of 19 October 2021.

The Governments on-island PCR nasopharyngeal testing capabilities have been overwhelmed, including private sector laboratories. At this time, Bermuda is unable to offer cruise ship passengers and crew PCR tests to meet traveller's legislative requirement to have an on-arrival PCR nasopharyngeal test.

The following alternative options may be considered by the Bermuda Molecular Diagnostics Laboratory (MDL) if approval is granted in advance for:

1. Cruise ships who have PCR labs and testing equipment on-board that are able to provide PCR nasopharyngeal test results that show CT values of positive cases, may apply to conduct the on-arrival testing on-board, with results being sent via email to MDL just prior to ships arrival; or
2. Cruise Lines able to hire a USA testing company who can conduct PCR nasopharyngeal testing in the departure terminal on all passengers and crew, before the ship departs for Bermuda. Test results would be sent via email to MDL just prior to arrival in Bermuda.

The information contained in this document is subject to change without notice based on the data supporting the science of COVID-19 and weekly logistics. The COVID-19 PCR testing policy for cruise ships is intended to cease effect on 31 December 2021. The on-line Travel Authorisation process will remain for all travellers entering Bermuda.

Having a COVID-19 vaccination does not disqualify any passenger or crew member from any of the protocols listed below.

**A. Cruise lines applying to call into Bermuda in 2021 during the pandemic must agree to**

1. All passengers and crew members must be fully immunized to enter Bermuda.
2. Appoint a Local Doctor in Bermuda to assist positive cases while on shore.
3. Enter into an MOU with Port Agent and Bermuda Hospitals Board for passengers requiring emergency medical attention during the pandemic at the King Edward VII Memorial Hospital.
4. Have an Air Ambulance Agreement to repatriate positive cases to country of residence, if required.
5. Enter into a letter of agreement with a local hotel for positive cases to isolate or close contacts to quarantine if required for 10-days.
6. Comply with Bermuda's COVID-19 PCR testing regulations until they cease effect.
7. **A COVID-19 outbreak** is more than one (1) Case on-board the Crystal Symphony. The Epidemiology and Surveillance Unit (ESU) are to be notified immediately of any or all positive Cases of COVID-19 along with notification to the Port Agent. A risk assessment will be conducted jointly between ESU and the vessel and all necessary steps will be mutually decided and may vary depending on the situation or on a case-by-case basis. Determining the CT value of the PCR nasopharyngeal is important to understand the viral load factor (high or low) and if the Case is at the beginning of the infection or nearing the end.

NOTE: in an outbreak the ship must update the ESU with new cases of Covid-like illness and confirmed cases etc. The original *Declaration of Health* which is routinely completed under International Health Regulations can be used for this purpose and for updates.

8. **Safe Key** is a Bermuda initiative designed to monitor and safeguard persons attending large events, and all persons wishing to dine at restaurants or attend nightclubs indoors – every passenger testing negative will receive a Safe Key with their on-arrival negative test result via email confirmation.
9. Allow, if required, Bermuda Authorities (Ministry of Health) to inspect and review ship's medical and testing facilities (or any facilities deemed appropriate by Ministry of Health as well as on-board COVID-19 Mitigation and Contact Tracing protocols.
10. All passengers and crew members are to remain on-board in quarantine until all negative test results are made known and Bermuda Authorities clear the ship. Should Bermuda Authorities be required to assist by retesting and verifying a positive case, results may take up to 24-hours (generally less), from the time the sample is collected and arrives at the Bermuda Molecular Diagnostics Laboratory (MDL) to be tested.

#### **B. Passengers' must**

1. Be 12+ years old and fully immunized (two jabs of approved vaccine plus 14 days or 1 jab if J&J plus 14 days). Bermuda approved vaccines include: Pfizer BioNTECH, AstraZeneca, Serum Institute of India, Jansen/Johnson & Johnson, Moderna, Sinovac and Sinopharm/BIBP. Passengers with two different doses + two weeks is acceptable for someone to be considered fully vaccinated. Doses must be from vaccines on Bermuda's approved list above.
2. PCR pre-departure test four (4) days before ships departure at the Terminal.  
Note: (see chart F), using an accredited laboratory. Pre-departure tests can be either PCR nasopharyngeal; PCR oropharyngeal (usually for children); PCR saliva tests, PCR buccal or RT-PCR. Bermuda does not accept antigen or antibody tests, or any NAAT test which is not RT-PCR i.e. RT-LAMP, RT-TMA or RT-HAD.
3. All passengers must PCR nasopharyngeal test on arrival to Bermuda. The on-arrival test may be taken at the Terminal before departing for Bermuda, providing the ship arrives Bermuda within two/three days.
4. Passengers should apply for a Travel Authorization\* (TA), pay \$75 and upload passengers vaccination certificate and negative Pre-departure PCR test taken four (4) days before departure at Terminal. Arrival day in Bermuda is Day Zero. The Bermuda Government will

email the Travel Authorisation to the passenger, as well as any positive results will be released to the Ship Doctor.

### **C. Crew members must**

1. Be fully immunized (two jabs of approved vaccine plus 14 days or 1 jab if J&J plus 14 days). Bermuda approved vaccines include: Pfizer BioNTECH, AstraZeneca, Serum Institute of India, Jansen/Johnson & Johnson, Moderna, Sinovac and Sinopharm/BIBP. Crew with two different doses + two weeks is acceptable for someone to be considered fully vaccinated. Doses must be from vaccines on our approved list.
2. Apply one time for a Crew Travel Authorization (TA) on-line individually or by management prior to first voyage to Bermuda (there is no fee).

### **D. To get a Travel Authorisation, passengers need**

1. To have no symptoms of concern
2. A valid email address
3. Adequate health insurance - that covers illness and injury outside of home jurisdiction, including those related to a positive COVID-19 diagnosis while in Bermuda. The insurance should include accommodation costs should a Passenger require treatment and/or isolation or quarantine, whether related to COVID-19 or otherwise.
4. Proof of a negative COVID-19 pre-departure PCR test taken no more than four (4) days before boarding the ship at the Terminal.
5. To consent to having a COVID-19 PCR nasopharyngeal test by the Cruise Line at the Terminal prior to departure to satisfy as Bermuda's on-arrival day test to Bermuda.
6. Agree to quarantine for 10 days (minimum) if test result is found positive or a passenger who is a close contact of a positive Case.

### **E. Passengers enjoyment of Bermuda**

Passengers testing negative on arrival can enjoy Bermuda while following all mitigating measures that may be in law at the time of passenger's visit, which may include: the wearing of a mask in public spaces, physical distancing, and frequent hand washing. Current restrictions limit groups and gatherings to 20 persons.

**F. Summary Chart of PCR testing and TA protocols for all Passengers and Crew**

Two weeks before departure	Day 1 96 hours	Day 2 72 hours	Day 3 48 hours	Day 4 24 hours	Departure Day from Terminal
<p><b>Step 1</b></p> <p>Book an early morning appointment for a PCR COVID-19 pre-departure test for <b>Day 1</b></p> <p>PCR Rapid Test is the quickest result</p>	<p><b>Step 2</b></p> <p>Take your <b>pre-booked PCR COVID-19 test early on this morning</b>; and ensure you take the <u>right test</u></p>	<p><b>Step 3</b></p> <p>Complete the TA and upload your negative PCR COVID-19 result &amp; Vaccination Card</p>	<p><b>Note</b></p> <p>TA Rejections typically are due to (i) passengers taking the wrong type of test; (ii) not booking the test far enough in advance; or (iii) uploading the wrong document for test result or vaccination card.</p>	<p><b>Step 4</b></p> <p>Receive your rejected or approved TA. If rejected, this will jeopardize your cruise.</p> <p>Follow email instructions</p>	<p><b>Step 5</b></p> <p>Must have approved TA to board ship at Terminal.</p> <p>On this day passengers will have an antigen test and a PCR nasopharyngeal Bermuda swab at the same time in the Terminal building before boarding the ship.</p>

**Passenger Travel Authorisation (TA)** – Bermuda Travel Authorisation Application link: <https://www.gov.bm/cruise-travel-authorisation> (two weeks prior to first call Breakaway will be added to the gov.bm website)

**Crew Travel Authorisation (TA)** – Bermuda Travel (one time no fee) Crew Authorisation Application link: <https://www.gov.bm/crew-requirements>

**Contact Information:**  
**Stacey Evans**  
 Section Head, Transport Planning Team  
 Government of Bermuda | **Ministry of Transport**  
 TCD Building, Second Floor | 11 North Street | Hamilton, Bermuda HM17  
 Direct Telephone: 441 300 0134 | Email: [sevans@gov.bm](mailto:sevans@gov.bm)  
 Ministry HQ direct line: 441 294 0426  
[www.gov.bm](http://www.gov.bm)

### **Updated/Revised**

6 July 2021/se

28 July 2021 Revised/se

4 October 2021 Revised/se

19 October 2021 Revised/se [adding Sinovac and Sinopharm to list of approved vaccines and adding a note under A.7. in an outbreak]

21 October Revised/se [adding Sinopharm/BIBP]

22 October Revised/se [adding passengers and crew with two different vaccine doses + two weeks is acceptable for someone to be considered fully vaccinated. Doses must be from vaccines on our approved list].