

# CDC Removes COVID-19 Cruise Ship Travel Health Notice

The **U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention** on Wednesday, March 30 dropped its **Travel Health Notice** for cruise travel. Put into place more than two years ago, this served as a platform that provided guidance to consumers on restrictions in cruise travel, grading systems and collaborative protocols for sailing safety. The removal of the health notice demonstrates the transition back into pre-pandemic operations for the cruise industry.

According to [USA Today](#), the removal of the notice doesn't mean the CDC considers the activity to be without any risk. "Travelers will make their own risk assessment when choosing to travel on a cruise ship, much like they do in all other travel settings," a spokesperson for the health agency, told the publication. The CDC made the decision to drop the notice based on the pandemic's current state and a decrease in **COVID** cases on cruise ships over the past several weeks.

The CDC reports that new cases daily in the United States are just over 26,000, while deaths are at 700 per day. New cases, deaths and hospitalizations are all down from earlier in this year.

"Today's decision by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to altogether remove the Travel Health Notice for cruising recognizes the effective public health measures in place on cruise ships and begins to level the playing field, between cruise and similarly situated venues on land, for the first time since March 2020," said **Cruise Lines International Association** in a statement.

"From the onset of the pandemic, CLIA's cruise line members have prioritized the health and safety of their guests, crew, and the communities they visit and are sailing today with health measures in place that are unmatched by virtually any other commercial setting."

# Katy Perry named Norwegian Prima godmother

Singer-songwriter and "American Idol" judge Katy Perry will not only serve as godmother of the **Norwegian Prima**, but she will christen the ship with a performance when the ship debuts.

In a statement, Perry said, "My most favorite way to vacation with my family is on the water. Every morning that you wake up, you get to experience an incredible new view. I love that I get to christen her with my good vibrations, and I'm so excited for this new, beautiful, high-end, high-tech ship to take the seas, and provide once-in-a-lifetime vacations for so many families."

The Prima will be christened on Aug. 27 in Reykjavik, Iceland, before the ship sets sail on its inaugural voyage.

According to Norwegian Cruise Line, the Prima will be the first major cruise ship christened in the Icelandic capital. Lindblad Expeditions' small ship, the 126-passenger **National Geographic Endurance**, was christened in Reykjavik in July.

The 3,215-passenger Prima is the first ship in the Prima class, NCL's first new class of ships in nearly a decade. NCL plans to build six Prima-class ships.

Perry isn't the only pop star to recently land a cruise line's godmother role. **Virgin Voyages** tapped **Jennifer Lopez** for that honor, although she will be more than a godmother. Lopez is also an investor in Virgin Voyages and the line's chief entertainment and lifestyle officer.



## Our new menu options

We are excited to introduce a [new menu for pre-purchase](#) for passengers flying with us in Economy.

From March 2, pre-ordered food will be delivered on board our flights between Iceland and Europe, and Iceland and North America.

Through our new menu and the pre-purchase option, we can offer increased diversity of meals - for example a three-course meal of Icelandic or Mediterranean flavors, smørrebrød open sandwich, superfood chia porridge, and vegan and keto meals. And yes, our popular ham and cheese baguette is back (for pre-purchase, and to buy on board)!

Check the images below, featuring some of the new pre-purchase options: Nordic open-face sandwich (smørrebrød with roast beef and smoked salmon), three-course Icelandic meal (featuring skyr, flat-bread with smoked lamb, reindeer paté, and arctic char, and *hjólabandssæla* or 'happy marriage cake' for dessert), and steak sandwich loaded with roast beef, mushrooms, pan-fried onion and Bearnaise sauce.

## Most Lines Have Introduced The 'E-Muster' Drill

The muster—or lifeboat—drill is a mandatory safety measure that occurs on every cruise ship once all passengers have embarked, before leaving port.

Before COVID-19, passengers would be gathered together in large groups, crammed into public space to take part in a safety drill that mimics a nautical emergency.

Since COVID struck, the muster drill has been modernized with lines including Royal Caribbean and Celebrity Cruises creating a far more convenient e-muster to allow for drills to take place with safe social distancing.

Passengers can watch the muster drill and listen to the emergency signal on their mobile devices using the lines' app or on their cruise room television. To complete the process, passengers typically have to check in at the physical muster station to complete the process.



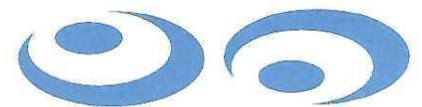
# Post-Covid Cruising: How Close to Normal is Cruising Right Now?

Cruising right now is getting back towards a new version of the pre-COVID normal. Cruise lines closely monitor and react to the CDC's guidance and the evolving nature of the pandemic -- regularly tweaking and updating their health and safety protocols.

Cruise travelers are, arguably, much safer on a ship, where vaccination rates are 95 percent (and therefore higher than ashore), stringent testing measures are in place and capacities are capped. Some processes that have evolved as a result of COVID-19, such as the e-muster drill are, on the whole, for the better.

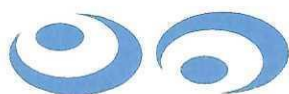


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**HARPER ROSE SMITH  
OCTOBER 19, 2021**

We're in a New York state of mind! MSC Cruises will sail year-round from New York City starting April 2023. From the picture-perfect beaches of Bermuda, and The Bahamas and Florida (with late-night stays in Miami and Port Canaveral), to the breathtaking fall foliage of Canada and New England, brand-new itineraries aboard MSC Meraviglia are now open for sale. Get ready to breathe in the sea air as you take in the new views.



**Matt and Gianna' Smith's honeymoon proved to be a trip to Excellence that was everything and more. Nine months later, Harper Rose Smith made her appearance. The first girl in a family of boys! I hope Harper learns to love the spa visits as much as her mother does. Congratulations to the entire family!**



# An Inside Look at MSC Cruises' New Explora Journeys Cruise Line



**MSC Group's new spinoff luxury line — Explora Journeys — is well on its way to launching in May of 2023. Its first cruise ship, Explora I, just had its coin ceremony late last month, and the vessel's initial itineraries have also been revealed.**

During the coin ceremony, which is a centuries-old maritime tradition, two newly minted coins were placed inside the ship as a blessing and to commemorate the construction milestone.

The building of the line's second ship, Explora II, began in November 2021 ahead of its spring 2024 launch, and a third and fourth vessel will come online in 2025 and 2026.

Explora I's first voyages will range from six-night cruises to a 44-night Grand Journey. During its maiden year, Explora I will head to 132 ports in 40 countries, including destinations in the Mediterranean, Northern Europe, the U.K., Iceland, Greenland, Canada, the eastern U.S., the Caribbean, South America and Hawaii.

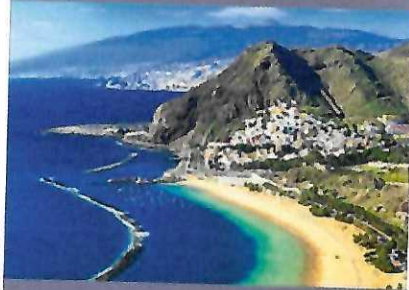
# Garlic, Bacon & Stilton Mashed Potatoes

~FROM STAR CLIPPERS' GALLEY~

## INGREDIENTS

- 
- 6 garlic cloves, peeled
  - 1 teaspoon olive oil
  - 2-1/2 pounds small red potatoes, cleaned
  - 4 ounces cream cheese, softened
  - 1/2 cup butter, cubed
  - 1/2 cup 2% milk
  - 1/2 teaspoon salt
  - 1/2 teaspoon pepper
  - 1/3 pound Stilton cheese, crumbled
  - 6 bacon strips, cooked and crumbled
  - 3 tablespoons minced fresh parsley, divided

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