



HEALTH & SAFETY

CLIA cruise lines go to great lengths to support the health and safety of all onboard. From cleaning practices to passenger screening and robust oversight over onboard health and safety practices, the cruise industry is one of the most vigilant industries as it relates to safety, sanitation and public health protocols.

- **CLIA ocean-going 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.
- » Cruise passengers are reminded to wash their hands regularly and hand sanitizers are readily available in public locations on a cruise ship.
- » At the end of every cruise, crewmembers clean the ship from top to bottom using designated cleaning supplies and sanitation procedures.



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- **Cruise ships are the only form of travel or transportation that are medically equipped to care for passengers or crew in the event of illness.**

- » CLIA oceangoing member cruise ships must be equipped with medical facilities that meet or exceed the standards set forth by the American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP).

- » ACEP guidelines mandate that doctors and medical personnel be available onboard 24/7 and cruise ships must have the ability to isolate contagious passengers to minimize the risk to others onboard.
- » Cruise ships must have an examination room, an intensive care room and equipment and procedures for processing labs, monitoring vital signs and administering medications.
- » Patients requiring more comprehensive facilities or treatment are typically referred to a shore side medical facility.

- **Passenger and crewmember health is protected by a robust system of oversight and enforcement.**

- » Public health authorities worldwide inspect cruise ships and enforce health requirements.
- » In the United States, for example, CLIA ocean-going cruise line members have a longstanding collaboration with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) through the agency's [Vessel Sanitation Program](#) (VSP).
- » The VSP provides a level of federal scrutiny that is unparalleled within the travel and hospitality industry. There is no similar federal program for hotels, airlines, trains, or short-term rentals.
- » The VSP conducts unannounced sanitation inspections onboard any cruise ship sailing to or from a U.S. port twice a year. If a ship sails outside the U.S. for an extended period of time, it will be inspected again upon its return to the U.S.
- » Following inspection, the VSP publishes reports for each individual cruise ship. Scores are made public on the [CDC's website](#).

- » As part of these unannounced inspections, the VSP looks at eight core areas of cruise ships:
 - Medical facilities
 - Potable water systems
 - Swimming pools and whirlpool spas
 - Galleys and dining rooms
 - Child activity centers
 - Hotel accommodations
 - Ventilation systems
 - Common areas of the ship
- » Cruise lines are also governed by the International Health Regulation of the WHO, which require that Health Declarations detailing illnesses of individuals on board be provided to port authorities around the globe prior to a ship's entry.

- » Every CLIA ocean-going member cruise ship must be equipped with enough survival craft to accommodate at least 125 percent of the number of persons onboard. All survival craft must be tested and must meet rigorous international standards.



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- **Pre-boarding health screenings for passengers and crew help prevent onboard illness.**
 - » The most common health screening protocol is a health questionnaire.
 - » Medical personnel on board can assess passengers and crewmembers who may be ill before they interact with other guests.
- **CLIA cruise line members have maintained an exceptional safety record, and cruise ships today are the safest that have ever sailed.**
 - » Even as worldwide cruise ship capacity grew between 2009 and 2019 by more than 68%, the number of operational incidents has decreased by more than 40%.
 - » All crewmembers, regardless of their specific job duties, must be trained in safety, security and first aid, including emergency and evacuation procedures, signals and alarms, fire prevention and beyond.
 - » Cruise ships are among the most scrutinized vessels at sea. Beginning at design and construction, the International Maritime Organization (IMO), flag and port state authorities, and classification societies provide strict safety standards and oversight throughout a ship's operations.

- **Cruise ships are one of the safest vacation options in the world as a result of comprehensive protocols and multiple layers of security.**
 - » A study of [four years of crime data](#) by renowned criminologist Dr. James Alan Fox shows that there are 25 times fewer allegations of major crime onboard cruise ships than there are on land.
 - » Major cruise lines have sophisticated security departments run by former federal, state and military law enforcement officials and trained ship security personnel are on call 24/7.
 - » Proof of identity is required to access a cruise ship, and only crew, ticketed passengers and those on a pre-approved list may come onboard.
 - » To help prevent the presence of dangerous weapons or illegal possessions onboard, passengers, crew and baggage must pass through rigorous security checkpoints before boarding.
 - » Cruise lines are required by United States federal law to have video surveillance in place to detect and deter crime.
 - » As a condition of membership within CLIA, all oceangoing cruise line members must voluntarily report any serious crime allegation regardless of the ship's location or flag.

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