

Pre-departure COVID-19 Policy

COVID-19 is real and present in our lives. My goal, our goal, is to get healthy people on board who also meet the bureaucratic requirements for our destination and possible stops so we can get home.

All crew should be fully vaccinated. Those eligible should be boosted. Those with immunity due to infection must have a positive PCR or antigen test no more than seven months old and a subsequent negative PCR test (antigen tests are not acceptable for negative tests).

All crew must have a negative PCR test associated with departure. I have the equipment for PCR testing (not rapid antigen) onboard. Specific scheduling is appropriate when negative tests are required for border crossings. Coordinate with me to avoid surprises. This policy has identified one crew member on a previous delivery who tested positive and ended up in the hospital. Had he become symptomatic offshore he could well have died waiting for SAR and the rest of the crew would almost certainly have been infected.

Note that there are specific requirements for some US territories including USVI and Puerto Rico. Guidance will be disseminated.

Where there are border crossings anticipated or as bailouts, email addresses will be provided for you to use for test notifications with distribution to you, our shore support team, and me. Please also provide a copy of your passport information page so that shore support can make arrangements in the event a diversion is required.

Crew are expected to take due care for five days before the trip. I do not expect a “hard” quarantine. Essential errands include medical appointments (does your doctor support telemedicine?), groceries (curbside pickup), pharmacy trips (curbside pickup or drive-through), and work outside the home. Essential does NOT include Starbucks for a latte or eating at a restaurant in a tent in the parking lot, in-person religious gatherings or family events beyond your household. If you must work outside the home please reach out quickly so we can establish risk mitigation.

To be clear, masks AND social distancing any time you are outside your home or personal vehicle (or off the boat prior to departure). No family or friends gatherings except with people that permanently share your household. The same quarantine must apply to people with whom you share your household.

This policy fulfills two functions: 1. It ensures healthy people getting on the boat and 2. fulfills the border requirements for a negative test no more than three days before arrival on the island. If local testing is onerous for you I can provide some advice on ways to minimize the cost. This is all getting easier but it does not reduce the risk of illness at sea.

The point of these policies is to get healthy people on board. If someone comes down with acute COVID-19 offshore that person may die along with those s/he infects.

What I expect to accomplish is to construct a temporary bubble of crew on board so we don't have to worry about masks underway. Distancing of course is impossible. **Consider compliance with COVID-19 policies an investment in a near normal offshore experience.**

Vaccination is not a panacea. CDC guidelines and current science indicate that vaccination reduces the risk of severe illness or death. Issues of asymptomatic infection and transmission have not been settled.

Long term nerve and organ damage from asymptomatic infection has been demonstrated. PCR tests as above get healthy people on the boat.

I am fully vaccinated with Pfizer.

This is very serious business.