

30 September 2022

The Institute for Marine-Earth Exploration and Engineering (MarE3) / JAMSTEC

HSQE Group

## Supplement for JAMSTEC/MarE3 Criteria for Boarding Ships for Prevention of COVID-19 (Rev. 3)

The Institute for Marine-Earth Exploration and Engineering (MarE3) / JAMSTEC has set and implemented the “*Criteria for Boarding Ships for Prevention of COVID-19 Outbreak (Rev. 5)*” for mariners and non-mariners (hereafter, “*Boarding Criteria*”), respectively on 22 March 2022, as necessary precautionary measures before boarding JAMSTEC vessels to prevent, as much as possible, the spread of COVID-19 infections onboard. In addition, “*Supplement for JAMSTEC/MarE3 Criteria for Boarding Ships for Prevention of COVID-19 (Rev.2)*” was issued on 16 September 2022.

JAMSTEC Emergency Response Headquarters issued “[*COVID-19*] *Policy on cruise operations [Revision 5]*” on 30 September 2022 (*See Attachment*). As following the amended policy, a four-night self-quarantine (bubble-system) is no more required to boarding personnel for cruises travelling within a four-day distance from Japanese ports with a condition of at least two COVID-19 vaccinations. This document will be applied to all cruises departing after this updates’ release date, except for a case that the boarding personnel has already started self-quarantine at the timing of the issue of this document.

- 1) In principle, complete at least two COVID-19 vaccinations.
- 2) For cruises travelling within a four-day distance from Japanese ports, all boarding personnel shall take two pre-boarding PCR tests (1<sup>st</sup>: a week before boarding; 2<sup>nd</sup>: within 72 hours prior to boarding) to confirm negative status.
- 3) In cases where personnel who were infected with COVID-19 and recovered (=quarantine period was over) within one month before boarding, test positive at the 1<sup>st</sup> pre-boarding PCR test, the personnel could take the 2<sup>nd</sup> pre-boarding PCR test with a doctor’s diagnosis. If the doctor judges that the personnel are no longer infectious, they will be permitted to board, in principle. However, in case personnel test positive at the 1<sup>st</sup> pre-boarding PCR test and are instructed by the relevant medical agency/public health centre to recover at home or the care facility, they will have to follow their instructions.
- 4) Those who do not meet Condition 1) are allowed to board if the following conditions are met:

- Take two pre-boarding PCR tests (1<sup>st</sup>: a week before the boarding; 2<sup>nd</sup>: within 72 hours to the boarding) to confirm negative status, and conduct a four-night self-quarantine in a hotel or other accommodation at the boarding location (*See Note*), and
- Follow the latest version of the *Boarding Criteria* and conduct all necessary procedures required in this document except for those related to vaccination.

The above is applied only to cruises travelling within a four-day travel distance from Japanese ports.

Note: self-quarantine at home is permitted to personnel who live by themselves in the vicinity of the port of embarkation.

If you have any questions, please consult with the MarE3 HSQE Group:

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September 13, 2021

February 1, 2022

March 22, 2022

June 20, 2022

Updated August 8, 2022

September 30, 2022

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Head of the Emergency Response Headquarters, JAMSTEC

### [COVID-19] Policy on cruise operations [Revision 5]

Since the issuance of the Policy on cruise operations (Revision 4, August 9, 2022), we have requested the pre-boarding self-isolation at the boarding place (bubble system) to ensure the safe implementation of research voyages. The number of new cases per day in Japan has decreased since August 19, 2022, when approximately 260,000 new cases were reported. Besides, other countries have been normalizing socioeconomic activities.

On September 8, 2022, the government announced in the "Policy for New Normal" that it would move to a new phase of measures against COVID-19 to maintain a balance between preventive measures and socioeconomic activities. Healthcare will be focused on the elderly and those at risk of severe disease, and the self-isolation period will be shortened under the Infectious Diseases Control Law for COVID-19.

The government simplifies the notification of positive cases from September 26, 2022.

The Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare reported that the number of new cases per day when lifting the bubble system was approximately 50,000 as the weekly average.

It is confirmed in the Policy on cruise operations [Revision 2] as of March 22, 2022, that the number of new cases from 9/23 to 9/29, 2022, was 47,000 per day, which was lower than when the bubble system was previously lifted.

After comprehensively considering the circumstances and the opinion of an industrial physician, we will lift the bubble system implemented under the Policy on cruise operations (Revision 4, August 9, 2022).

We ask that all passengers continue to take infection preventive measures before and during voyages and receive the COVID-19 vaccine recommended by the government.

The new policy on cruise operations is as follows. This Policy applies, in principle, to voyages departing today or later.\*<sup>1</sup>

1. As a general rule, crew members/passengers who have received at least two vaccinations can participate voyages.
2. Preconditions for voyages  
All new passengers must:
  - Undergo PCR tests twice (a week and within 72 hours before boarding) to confirm negative
  - Follow the latest "MarE3 Criteria for Boarding Ships for Prevention of COVID-19 Outbreak" (Boarding Criteria) to take care of their health
3. However, even if passengers do not meet the requirements of 1., they can be on board a vessel after self-isolation before boarding at the boarding place\*<sup>2</sup>, and taking PCR test (negative confirmation) as in 2. on the premise that they will take care of their health following the latest Boarding Criteria. This section applies only to voyages within a 4-day or less from a port in Japan.

\*<sup>1</sup> This excludes the voyages the bubble system has already started when this Policy is issued.

\*<sup>2</sup> For voyages within a 4-day rhumb from a Japanese port, the self-isolation period before boarding is four days (4 nights).