

JAMSTEC/MarE3 Criteria for Boarding Ships in regard to COVID-19

The Institute for Marine-Earth Exploration and Engineering (MarE3) has set this Criteria in response to the change of governmental policy in regard to COVID-19 from 8 May 2023 (*cf.* Ministry of Health Labour and Welfare (MHLW) COVID-19 information site, *see* below), and the associated MarE3 policy (“*[COVID-19] Policy on Cruise Operations*” issued on 8 May 2023, *See* Attachment). This Criteria replaces the “*Criteria for Boarding Ships for Prevention of COVID-19 Outbreak (for Mariners / Non-Mariner Personnel, Rev. 7)*” issued on 8 March 2023, which is applicable to all boarding personnel on JAMSTEC vessels after 8 May 2023.

MHLW COVID-19 information site:

https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/seisakunitsuite/bunya/0000164708_00001.html

Definition of “boarding personnel” in this document

- Those who plans to board JAMSTEC vessels (except for day visitors) including mariners, researchers, research assistants, operation crew and other related personnel (Note 1).

Procedures to be carried out by boarding personnel

By 14 days before boarding

- Recommend to complete at least three COVID-19 vaccinations (Note 2).
- Obtain the latest information about the infection status at the boarding location, and take all possible infection preventive measures.

From 14 days before boarding

- Every morning measure your body temperature and check your health conditions (Note that the day of boarding is counted as “Day 0”).
- If any of the symptoms listed below are observed, promptly report these findings to the MarE3 Operations Department, Fleet Operations Group (Note 3) through the Coordinator (For details of the Coordinators, see at the last of this document).
 - Any breathing difficulties (dyspnea), strong fatigue (malaise) and high fever (>

37.5 °C).

- Mild cold-like symptoms, such as fever (higher than his/her normal temperature even it is below 37.5 °C) or cough continued four or more days.
- Subjective symptoms of abnormalities in senses of taste and smell.
- If you fall into any of the cases below, immediately report to MarE3 Operations Department, Fleet Operations Group through the Coordinator (Note 3).
 - Having travelled to a country or a region (designated by the Japan Ministry of Foreign Affairs with infection disease alert level 2 or higher) within 14 days before boarding.
 - Identified as being infected with COVID-19.
 - Having a possible close contact with a person who has travelled to a country or a region (designated by the Japan Ministry of Foreign Affairs with infection disease alert level 2 or higher) within 14 days before boarding.
 - Having a possible close contact with a person who has been identified as being infected with COVID-19 (two days before to seven days after the day of being infected / identified).
- While at home, or in other accommodations, or during transportation, your effort for taking infection prevention measures is highly appreciated. According to a JAMSTEC occupational health doctor, the following measures are effective during the infection spreading period:
 - Hand wash and ventilation
 - Avoiding situations such as social gatherings, long feasts in large groups, a 3Cs (Closed spaces, Crowded places, Close-contact settings) or other environment that increases the risk of infection (e.g. crowded places, loud-speaking situations)

At time of boarding

- Recommend hand disinfection at the Gangway.
- Provide your own body temperature measuring device, masks, towels, a cup and a water bottle for personal use during the cruise. If necessary, bring your vaccine certificate, antiseptics and personal beverages.
- During the infection spreading period, the Chief Scientist / Principal Investigator will discuss with the Captain about measures to prevent infection on the ship, and keep the passengers informed immediately after boarding.

Coordinator:

Chief Scientist / Principal Investigator	For Boarding Researchers (Incl. subcontractors)
Person in charge of NME	For NME personnel (Incl. subcontractors)
Person in charge of MQJ	For MQJ personnel (Incl. subcontractors)
Person in charge of MWJ	For MWJ personnel (Incl. subcontractors)
Person in charge of MOL Marine & Engineering	For MOL Marine & Engineering personnel (Incl. subcontractors)
JAMSTEC MarE3 Operations Department, Fleet Operations Group	For JAMSTEC members (excluding JAMSTEC Boarding Researchers) and JAMSTEC subcontractors/agents, public relations

MarE3 Operations Department, Fleet Operations Group Contact (common for each ship):
mare3-fleetops-kikan@jamstec.go.jp

- For questions about this Criteria

MarE3 HSQE Group: mare3-hsqecore@jamstec.go.jp

The above standards may change based on the policies of the administrative agencies and JAMSTEC in the future. In addition, the above standards will remain effective until a new revised standard is issued or an instruction to cancel application is issued. If you have any questions, please contact the appropriate department of MarE3 through the Coordinator.

Notes

1) Regarding "boarding personnel" in this document

Those who belongs to the "high-risk categories" listed below are not allowed to board cruise moves beyond a four-day travel distance, in principle, following the recommendations from a JAMSTEC occupational health doctor (except for the boarding while the ship is alongside).

- Elderly people (70 years old or older)
- Those who have basic illness such as listed below:
 - Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD)
 - Chronic kidney disease (except for having a medical doctor's diagnosis and permission)
 - Diabetes (fasting blood glucose level 150 mg/dL or more, with or without oral treatment, HbA1c is less than 7.0%, in principle permitted)
 - Hypertension (except for having a medical doctor's diagnosis and permission)
 - Cardiovascular disease (except for having a medical doctor's diagnosis and permission)
- Pregnancy (third trimester)

2) Recommend to complete three times or more vaccinations that Japanese government certifies (*See* MHLW website below). However, if vaccination is required by the port state of the research area or a planned emergency entry port, or by a border control measures at the re-entry to Japan, vaccination is mandatory for boarding. Responding to the requirement from the Operations Department, prepare a vaccination certificate and bring it at the boarding.

cf. Japanese government-certified vaccines (MHLW)

https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/covid-19/border_vaccine.html

3) Upon receiving the report from the boarding personnel, the MarE3 Operations Department will determine availability of boarding. In case the person has any symptoms, a doctor's diagnosis is required (at the boarding personnel's cost), and the MarE3 Operations Department will determine based on the diagnosis. In case the person is diagnosed to be "not-infectious", the boarding will be permitted, in principle. Even if the person is diagnosed to be "infectious", the boarding will be permitted without another diagnosis as far as the recovery period specified in the latest MHLW guideline is over by the day before boarding.

High fever, chill or headache WITHOUT any other cold-like symptoms such as cough, pain in the throat and breathing difficulty within three days after COVID-19 vaccination (the day of vaccination and two days after that) are likely to be side-effects of vaccination. In such a case, reporting to the Fleet Operations Group is not required.

Attachment

May 8, 2023

Katsuyoshi KAWAGUCHI

Director General

Institute for Marine-Earth Exploration and Engineering (MarE3)

JAMSTEC

COVID-19 Policy on cruise operations

The Emergency Response Headquarters for New Coronavirus (headed by JAMSTEC President Yamato, hereinafter referred to as "Headquarters") has formulated and revised a policy (first edition, dated September 13, 2021) for cruise operations (in response to new coronavirus), and has requested all crew members/passengers on board to take measures to prevent infection before and during cruises.

As of today, the Government of Japan has placed the new coronavirus infectious disease in the same category as seasonal influenza under the Infectious Disease Control Law, and has decided to take similar prevention measures.

Although the COVID-19 team is suspended today, we will take appropriate measures for future cruise operations, based on the government's actions and the status of infection.

We express our sincere appreciation to all crew members/passengers on board for following the recommendations and policies enacted to support precautionary measures to prevent infection before and during JAMSTEC cruises.

The following is our revised policy, replacing the "Policies for the JAMSTEC/MarE3's Responses to the COVID-19 during the Cruises" (dated February 1, 2023), regarding cruise operations, which in principle applies to cruises departing from this day forward:

1. Embarkation policy

(1) We recommend that all new crew members be vaccinated at least three times in order to prevent severe cases of coronavirus. However, if required by the country to which the ship is expected to enter in the event of an emergency, or by the border measures to be taken when the ship returns to Japan, the necessary measures will be needed accordingly.

(2) MarE3 will not conduct pre-boarding PCR testing for all new crew members/passengers. In addition, MarE3 does not request self-isolation (bubble method) prior to embarkation at the port of embarkation, regardless of the number of vaccinations.

(3) All new crew members/passengers must comply with the latest criteria for boarding.

2. Response in the event of a person strongly suspected of being infected with coronavirus during the cruise:

The response shall be in accordance with the "Crisis Management Response Manual".