

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE,
AND TRANSPORTATION

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6125

WEBSITE: <http://commerce.senate.gov>

March 6, 2020

Arnold Donald
President and CEO
Carnival Cruise Line
3655 NW 87th Avenue
Miami, FL 33178

Dear Mr. Donald:

I am writing to request information on actions your company is taking to address the potential spread of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) on cruise ships and in associated port facilities. The Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation has been focused on the spread of COVID-19. Through this letter, we hope to ascertain how the cruise line industry is preparing and responding to COVID-19, including the specific steps that are being taken by the industry and the Federal government to fully understand and mitigate risk to the traveling public, as well as cruise ship crews, port employees, and the public.

Since COVID-19 was first identified in Wuhan, China, last year, the virus has spread to a number of countries throughout the world, including the United States, by air and cruise ship travel. The recent report of the spread has raised understandable concerns by public health officials and the traveling public about measures that can be taken to prevent the further spread of COVID-19 through all modes of travel. To date, however, there has been limited public guidance issued by the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), the Coast Guard, or other Federal health and security agencies regarding steps cruise lines, ports, and the traveling public should take to address COVID-19. Therefore, in order to more fully understand the measures the cruise line industry is taking in response to COVID-19 and additional Federal steps and resources that may be needed, I request that you provide the following information:

- 1) Does your cruise line have a pandemic response plan?
 - a. If so, please provide a copy of that plan or protocols, and indicate whether the plan has been implemented for some or all operations.
 - b. Has the Coast Guard or other Federal entities provided adequate guidance to your cruise line on this plan or protocol specific to COVID-19? If not, would such additional guidance be helpful?
 - c. Does your cruise line have methods in place to test passengers prior to boarding a cruise ship? If so, please provide.
 - d. Does your cruise line have methods to determine whether prospective passengers have traveled to countries or U.S. cities with confirmed cases of COVID-19? If so, what actions are taken by the cruise line to screen that passenger, or prevent that passenger from boarding a cruise ship in the future?

- 2) Please detail your vessel and port disinfection policies, including:
 - a. Disinfection measures after each cruise;
 - b. Daily cleaning and disinfection policies;
 - c. Policies for disinfecting vessels and associated facilities when a passenger or crew member with COVID-19 or other serious communicable disease is identified or detected on a cruise or after a cruise;
 - d. Whether these policies have been vetted with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the World Health Organization (WHO), or similar independent health or disease control entity; and
 - e. Whether additional guidance or standardized recommendations on COVID-19 specific vessel and port disinfection practices would be helpful from the Coast Guard or CDC.

- 3) Please outline the specific measures taken when a passenger or crew member falls ill. Has the Coast Guard communicated specific guidance regarding reporting and responding to a suspected ill passenger or crew member? If so, please share that guidance.

- 4) Please detail your company's policy for notifying other passengers on a cruise where COVID-19 or other serious communicable disease is detected or later discovered. Would further Federal guidance in this area from the Coast Guard or CDC be helpful?

- 5) Please detail your company's policies regarding the waiver of change or cancellation fees when a passenger indicates that they have, or suspects they may have, a serious communicable disease.
 - a. If your company does not have such a policy, do you plan to implement such a policy and communicate the specifics of that policy to the public?
 - b. Would standardized guidance from DOT or another Federal entity regarding change and cancellation policies be helpful in this area?

- 6) Are there suspected or potential cases of COVID-19 on cruise ships in U.S. waters, or on cruise ships that are scheduled to enter U.S. waters today? If so, please provide specific information, including the number of ill passengers, the name(s) and location(s) of the ship(s), the total number of passengers and crew, the next expected port call, and steps being taken to respond to the potential spread of the virus on each vessel, as well as an outline of the cruise ship's precautions to be taken to protect passengers and crew from contamination prior to arrival in a U.S. port. Please also provide the guidance received by the U.S. Coast Guard or other entity with respect to response for each vessel.

- 7) Lastly, I request specific information from Carnival Corporation, the parent company of Princess Cruises, regarding the Grand Princess, which is currently being kept off the coast of California due to previous passengers and crew testing positive for COVID-19, with one passenger tragically succumbing to the disease. I am concerned about the lack of federal communication regarding the treatment and services provided to passengers and crew on board the Grand Princess. Please provide the following:
 - a. Please provide the procedures and guidance that are being used to facilitate response, care, and prevention of COVID-19 on board the Grand Princess. Have you received guidance from the Coast Guard and the CDC? If not, would

additional guidance be helpful? Is the guidance received consistent with WHO recommendations?

- b. Has the Coast Guard or CDC boarded the Grand Princess to assist in the response to COVID-19? If so, please share the federal entity, the number of people, and the nature of their work on board.
- c. How many passengers and crew are showing signs of illness?
- d. How many passengers and crew have been tested for COVID-19, and what were the results of those tests?
- e. How many additional tests are needed? Have you requested additional tests?
- f. How are passengers and crew who tested negative being treated on board? Do you plan to repeat tests?
- g. Do you have the staff and resources needed to provide adequate medical treatment and monitoring of passengers and crew that are showing signs of illness?
- h. What are the procedures for isolation and containment on board the Grand Princess? What information has been shared with passengers and crew regarding isolation, treatment, and activity on board the vessel?
- i. What guidance are you giving asymptomatic passengers that are still onboard?
- j. How many medical personnel were on the ship during the voyage? How many medical personnel have been added to the ship to improve response and treatment of passengers and crew?
- k. Does the ship have enough provisions on board as far as food, fuel, and cleaning/disinfecting supplies?
- l. What quarantine options are being considered for passengers upon arrival to San Francisco? Which federal entities are working with you to develop that plan? Do you need additional guidance from the Coast Guard, CDC, or other federal entities?
- m. What is the plan for international passengers who have tested positive for COVID-19?
- n. Is Carnival also working with Emergency Management and the Emergency Operations Center in San Francisco to expand options for quarantine?
- o. Is Carnival working with the CDC to track those passengers who have departed the ship on the previous cruise?

Thank you in advance for your assistance with this request. Please provide the requested information as soon as possible and in no event later than March 13, 2020.

Sincerely,



MARIA CANTWELL
Ranking Member