

Cruise Ships: Equipped for Health

“The latest CDC report provides the strongest evidence to date that cruise lines are going to great lengths to protect the health of passengers—and succeeding.”

—Christine Duffy
President and CEO of Cruise Lines International Association

FACT 1

Cruise ships go to great lengths to keep passengers healthy and well.

- Cruises regularly clean and sanitize the facilities on board, from door handles and gym equipment to Scrabble tiles and poker chips.
- Cabins are cleaned and sanitized at least once daily, restaurants and snack areas are cleaned regularly, and common areas like pools and elevators are cleaned throughout the day.
- Health screenings help to identify ill passengers or crewmembers prior to boarding. Passengers and crewmembers who may be ill are assessed by medical staff before they may interact with other guests.
- At the end of every cruise, crewmembers are to clean the ship from top to bottom using designated cleaning supplies and sanitation procedures.
- CLIA members collaborate with the American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP) to develop and implement guidelines on cruise ship medical facilities.

FACT 2

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

- Public health authorities worldwide, including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in the U.S., inspect and enforce scores of health requirements.
- Ships that visit U.S. ports and are part of the CDC’s Vessel Sanitation Program are inspected by the CDC at least twice a year.



FACT 3

Cruise ships are highly equipped, well-staffed, and thoroughly prepared to handle medical emergencies and health concerns.

- Every CLIA Member ocean-going cruise line must have licensed physicians and registered nurses available 24/7 for medical bay visits or cabin “house calls.”
- Ships are equipped with sophisticated medical equipment such as cardiac monitors, defibrillators and x-ray machines.
- Onboard staff must be rigorously trained in first aid and public health policies.



FACT 4

Stomach bugs like norovirus are far less common on cruise ships than on land—in fact, less than 1% of all reported norovirus outbreaks occur on cruise ships.

NOROVIRUS: NOT A CRUISE VIRUS

You are **750 times more likely** to get norovirus, or the common stomach bug, on land than on a cruise ship.

IN FACT, LESS THAN 1% OF OUTBREAKS EVERY YEAR OCCUR ON CRUISE SHIPS.

1 IN 15
ON LAND

1 IN 12,000
ON A CRUISE

WHERE PEOPLE GET SICK FROM NOROVIRUS*

HEALTH CARE FACILITY	62%	RESTAURANT	22%	PRIVATE RESIDENCE	2%
SCHOOL/ DAY-CARE FACILITY	6%	OTHER	7%		

* SOURCE: CDC National Outbreak Reporting System.



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The Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA) is the world’s largest cruise industry trade association. CLIA represents the interests of cruise lines, travel agents, port authorities and destinations, and various industry business partners before regulatory and legislative policy makers.