



## WHOI Ship Operations COVID-19 Policy

### For Science Party and Marine Crew Members

WHOI Ship Operations Guidelines are developed from CDC updates, GWMMA and UNOLS Guidance. These may be updated or modified as needed.

***Prior to boarding, all individuals sailing on WHOI vessels must be vaccinated for COVID-19***

#### Definitions

**Vaccinated:** A person who has received a single or double dose vaccination (Pfizer, Moderna, J&J or Novavax) or more recent COVID-19 one shot vaccination.

**WHOI Ship Operations also strongly recommends the 2023 – 2024 updated vaccines: Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna, or Novavax. As recommended by the CDC.**

If participants are foreign based, any World Health Organization (WHO) approved vaccination is acceptable.

**GWMMA:** George Washington Maritime Medical Access. This is the vessels 24/7 medical care provider while at sea. All medical treatment can be provided via phone, email, telemedicine, or video when needed.

**SSPI:** Shipboard Scientific Personnel Information is a secure and confidential notification source for Ship Operations. [sspi@whoi.edu](mailto:sspi@whoi.edu) (ships crew please send to [bryan@whoi.edu](mailto:bryan@whoi.edu))

The latest update to UNOLS Considerations for Conducting Seagoing Science Ver: 1.2 – 21 June 2023 has been included with this notice. <https://www.unols.org/sites/default/files/2023-06/unols-updated-covid-guidance-21june2023.pdf>

#### Symptom Awareness and Reporting

At least 14 days prior to travel & embarkation, all participants and crew should:

- Be fully vaccinated no less than 2 weeks prior to embarking vessel.
- Self-monitor for COVID-19 symptoms and report symptoms to [sspi@whoi.edu](mailto:sspi@whoi.edu) or for ship's crew send to [bryan@whoi.edu](mailto:bryan@whoi.edu) and to your or immediate supervisor (Chief Scientist / PI (Principal Investigator) / Master / Marine Personnel Coordinator/ Director of Ship Operations).
- Report to the same supervisor immediately if a co-habiting household member tests positive for COVID-19 or if an individual experiences close contact with someone that tests positive.
- If conditions warrant, a PCR test and/or 5-day isolation may be required. Case-by-case basis only and to be coordinated by [sspi@whoi.edu](mailto:sspi@whoi.edu) or for ship's crew by Beth Ryan [bryan@whoi.edu](mailto:bryan@whoi.edu)

## Pre-Embarkation

All crew, marine technicians and scientists who are embarking our vessels must:

- 2 weeks pre-cruise, follow general best practices to remain COVID-free (ex: increased handwashing, avoiding crowds when possible, wearing a mask when traveling, etc.)
- Within 2 to 3 days of boarding, must take a home antigen test or PCR test and send a picture of proof negative to [sspi@whoi.edu](mailto:sspi@whoi.edu) or ship's crew to [bryan@whoi.edu](mailto:bryan@whoi.edu)
- If you have tested positive for COVID within 90 days of boarding, contact [sspi@whoi.edu](mailto:sspi@whoi.edu) or ship's crew to [bryan@whoi.edu](mailto:bryan@whoi.edu) with the details surrounding those positive results. Next steps will be determined on a case-by-case basis.

## Embarkation

- If a person tests positive, outcomes will be situationally dependent and determined by Captain and shore support (ex: isolation ashore, isolation aboard, denial of boarding, etc.)
- If tests become required and you have submitted proof of previous COVID infection within 90 days of cruise date, you may be exempt from testing.
- If conditions warrant, at the gangway upon arrival, everyone will receive an antigen test administered by the ship's officers.

## Underway

- For high-risk cruises that are very remote and or are in areas that lack reasonable shoreside medical support, that mission should plan to keep one science stateroom empty **or** to a single occupant, to accommodate a COVID case.
- Antigen or PCR testing may continue daily on board depending on the cruise operational area, number of personnel on board and other risk factors.
- If a person tests positive but is asymptomatic After 5 days isolation on board, that person may return to work if they have no symptoms or symptoms are resolving after 5 days. That person must wear a mask for 5 days after isolation.
- If a person tests positive and has moderate to severe symptoms, the ship's medical officer will consult with GWMMA on best treatment and evacuation or port call options if required.
- If all hands onboard have tested negative and are healthy, masks may not be required to be worn.
- Shipboard crew will perform extensive cleaning and disinfecting of all areas of the ship if a case develops on board, Clorox 360 electrostatic sprayers are to be used.