



# Process of approval for small cruise ships to sail in WA waters

This factsheet provides information on the process of granting approval to small cruise ships to recommence sailing in Western Australian (WA) waters. A small cruise ship is a vessel which has sleeping facilities for fewer than 100 passengers, provides a service in return for a fee payable by persons using the service, and is available to the general public (including relevant commercially operating Super Yachts).

## Process of granting approval

- The company should contact PHEOC at [pheoc@health.wa.gov.au](mailto:pheoc@health.wa.gov.au) regarding the plans. A checklist will be provided which will need to be completed and returned.
- **PHEOC requires a minimum of 14 days to approve** plans for the vessel.
- Approval, once granted, will be for an initial period of up to 6 months.

## COVID-19 safe plan requirements

- Evidence that the ship meets the requirements for a small cruise ship in relation to the number of sleeping facilities for passengers.
- Itinerary of all cruises for which approval is being sought in the six-month approval period.
- \*Evidence that the ship meets unexposed vessel status as defined in the *Maritime Crew Member Directions* under the *Emergency Management Act 2005*.

## Additional requirements

The following plans need to be in place but do not need to be submitted for review:

- Plans for assessing and managing COVID-19 risk of passengers and crew prior to boarding, including assessing if they have been in a hotspot or restricted location during the 14 days prior to boarding.
- Plans to monitor hot spots and restricted locations during a cruise and a management plan for passengers identified as possibly exposed
- Plans for assessing and managing COVID-19 risk of passengers and crew during a cruise and how to manage them if they discover they develop COVID-19 symptoms or are identified as a close contact of a case.
- Plans for managing itinerary changes should a location on the itinerary become a hotspot or restricted location.
- Acknowledgement of the need for adherence to relevant [Directions](#) should the itinerary include visit(s) to Aboriginal communities or travel on Aboriginal lands.

## Testing for COVID-19

Testing of passengers or crew who develop COVID-19 symptoms must be in accordance with the COVID-19 Testing [Directions](#). Contact the local [Public Health Unit](#) to discuss testing and isolation requirements.

Asymptomatic testing in WA requires approval from the CHO. Application for approval, if required, should be accompanied by the following information:

- the type of testing proposed, including which group of people will be tested,
- the name and address of the referring medical practitioner, and
- the name of the laboratory conducting the testing.

Pre-boarding testing is not required but may be considered as part of a risk mitigation strategy. Such PCR test results may be taken into consideration should Directions change in relation to another jurisdiction.

## Following an approval

Where a small cruise ship approval is provided, companies are required to continue to:

- Monitor for any jurisdictional or national changes pertaining to small cruise ships.
- Submit updated itineraries to PHEOC should the date and/or locations change.
- Submit passenger and crew manifests to WAPOL at [IndustryEntry@police.wa.gov.au](mailto:IndustryEntry@police.wa.gov.au) prior to the commencement of each cruise, these should include the following information:
  - Name and date of birth
  - The country and Australian State/Territory visited by each person in the 14 days prior to embarking the cruise ship
  - Confirmation that G2G passes have been obtained for all interstate and international visitors.

## \*Process to transition the status of a vessel from exposed to unexposed in WA

If this is required prior to commencement of cruising, see the [fact sheet](#).

If this has occurred in another jurisdiction in Australia, confirmation of transition will be required.

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**This document can be made available in alternative formats on request for a person with disability.**

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