



To protect, nurture and advance
the health of our community

ONEIDA COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Linda Conlon, MPH, BAN, RN
Director/ Health Officer

Marta Koelling, MPH, MS, CHES
Assistant Director



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: 715-369-6111

COVID-19 Update: Level 3 Avoid Nonessential Global Travel on Cruise Ships

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends all persons defer any travel on cruise ships, including river cruises, worldwide due to the increased risk of COVID-19 transmission onboard ships.

In the past month, there have been reports of outbreaks of COVID-19 among passengers and crew on cruises. Recent examples include 696 cases and 8 deaths on the *Diamond Princess* cruise ship in Japan, 28 cases on the *Grand Princess* cruise ship in the United States, and at least 60 cases in 15 states associated with multiple Nile River voyages in Egypt as of March 14, 2020. Illness onset occurred both onboard ships and after passengers returned to the United States. The proximity of passengers and crew on small ships and boats traveling on rivers may result in an even higher number of COVID-19 infections. Deferring travel is especially important for older adults and all people with serious chronic medical conditions (such as heart disease, diabetes or lung disease), because of their increased risk for severe disease.

Additionally, it is important for community members to realize that travel on cruise ships may result in the following:

- ~~Return travel to the United States may be impacted, including formal quarantine procedures~~
- Some countries may refuse docking or disembarkation if there are known or suspected cases on board
- Appropriate medical care or medical evacuation may not be available internationally

~~For individuals who still intend to cruise, against health recommendations, we advise you to practice social distancing and monitor your health both during travel and for 14 days from the time you disembark. Social distancing means staying out of crowded places, avoiding group gatherings, and maintaining distance (approximately 6 feet or 2 meters) from others, when possible.~~

If you were on a cruise in the past 14 days:

- **Stay home for 14 days from the time you disembark, practice social distancing, and monitor your health. Social distancing means staying out of crowded places, avoiding group gatherings, and maintaining distance (approximately 6 feet or 2 meters) from others when possible.**

Phone: (715) 369-6111

Fax: (715) 369-6112

ochd@co.oneida.wi.us

www.OneidaCountyPublicHealth.org

100 W. Keenan Street
Rhineland, WI 54501
Monday– Friday 8:00AM-4:30PM

*Embracing change, partnerships, and best practices to lead
Oneida County to a healthy future.*

To read the latest information about COVID-19 people can check the Oneida County Health Department website (oneidacountypublichealth.org) or Facebook page (facebook.com/OneidaCountyHealthDepartment/), the Department of Health Services (DHS) website (<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/index.htm>) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) website (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>).

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