

## JAMSTEC/MarE3 Criteria for Boarding Ships for Prevention of COVID-19 Outbreak for Non-Mariner Personnel (Rev. 7)

The Institute for Marine-Earth Exploration and Engineering (MarE3) has set and implemented the *Criteria for Boarding/Visiting Ships for Prevention of COVID-19 Outbreak*, as necessary precautionary measures before boarding/visiting JAMSTEC vessels in order to prevent, as much as possible, the spread of COVID-19 onboard.

This document is an update of the former Criteria (*JAMSTEC/MarE3 Criteria for Boarding Ships for Prevention of COVID-19 Outbreak for Non-Mariner Personnel (Rev. 6)*, issued on 1 February 2023) based upon the revision of the *JAMSTEC COVID-19 Emergency Response Team policy (Rev. 6)* issued on 1 February 2023, and the *Mask Use Guidance Starting from 13 March 2023* issued from Japan Ministry of Health Labour and Welfare (MHLW) (*See Attachments 1 & 2*), which is applicable to all non-mariner boarding personnel (passengers) on JAMSTEC cruises (*See Note 1*) after 13 March 2023.

Measures to be taken during the cruises shall follow the latest version of the “*JAMSTEC/MarE3 Response Policy for COVID-19 Infection during Cruise*”.

### ▪ **Definition of “passengers” in this document**

Researchers, science support staff, and operation team crew (Note 2) who plan to participate in a voyage via JAMSTEC vessel.

Boarding on *D/V Chikyu* for laboratory work whilst being alongside will be treated separately.

## **Procedures to be carried out by passengers**

### **By 7 days before boarding**

- In principle, complete at least three COVID-19 vaccinations (Note 3).
- Obtain the latest information about the infection status at the boarding location, and take all possible infection preventive measures.

### **From 14 days before boarding**

- Every morning measure and record your body temperature in the attached Health

Logbook (attached separately), as well as other symptoms (if any), and record your activity (moving) log in the designated form (Note 4).

- While at home, or in other accommodations, or during transportation, manage yourself as taking the following infection prevention measures, which are recommended by a JAMSTEC occupational health doctor under the situations for attracting attention by the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW):
  - Situations such as social gatherings, long feasts in large groups, or having conversation without masks should be avoided. Situations such as living together in small limited spaces or switching locations should be avoided as much as possible.
  - A 3Cs (Closed spaces, Crowded places, Close-contact settings) environment or other environment that increases the risk of infection should be avoided.

*cf. 11 things you need to know NOW about COVID-19 (MHLW)*

<https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/covid-19/11thingstoknow.html>

- If any of the symptoms listed below are observed, promptly report these findings to the MarE3 Operations Department Fleet Operations Group (Note 5) through the Coordinator (For details of the Coordinators, see at the last of this document).
  - Any breathing difficulties (dyspnea), strong fatigue (malaise) and high fever (> 37.5 °C) including those considered to be side effects of COVID-19 vaccination.
  - Mild cold-like symptoms, such as fever (higher than his/her normal temperature even it is below 37.5 °C) or cough continued four or more days.
  - Subjective symptoms of abnormalities in senses of taste and smell.
- If you fall into any of the cases below, immediately consult with MarE3 Operations Department Fleet Operations Group through the Coordinator (Note 5).
  - Having travelled to a country or a region (designated by the Japan Ministry of Foreign Affairs with infection disease alert level 2 or higher) within 14 days before boarding.
  - Identified as being infected with COVID-19.
  - Having a possible close contact with a person who has travelled to a country or a region (designated by the Japan Ministry of Foreign Affairs with infection disease alert level 2 or higher) within 14 days before boarding.
  - Having a possible close contact with a person who has been identified as being infected with COVID-19 (two days before to seven days after the day of being infected / identified).

### **7 days before boarding**

- Conduct the first pre-boarding PCR testing via mail around 7 days before boarding. Take your test sample at home (in principle), and send it to the designated test institute (for details, contact MarE3 separately, *see* Note 6). Results shall be reported immediately to the Operations Department Fleet Operations Group immediately through the Coordinator (described in the later section). In case you tested positive, follow the instructions from your medical agency / public health centre (Note 7).
- Move to the boarding location in time for the final pre-boarding PCR testing with taking above-mentioned infection preventive measures as much as possible.

### **3 days before boarding & the day before boarding**

- Within 72 hours to the boarding, all passengers must undergo the final pre-boarding PCR testing (for details, contact MarE3 separately, *see* Note 6). The test will be conducted at the boarding location in principle, and the result must be diagnosed by a medical doctor (Note 8).
- Submit your own Health Logbook, Activity Log and Written Oath (hereafter, Boarding Documents) to the Coordinator by 10 AM (The Written Oath declares that your behaviours during the pre-boarding period meet JAMSTEC's rules and requirements. *See* Note 9).
- The Coordinators will submit the collected boarding documents to the person in charge by noon (the Chief Scientist / Principal Investigator: to MarE3, other Coordinators: to his/her own organisation). In case MarE3 or the organisation which the Coordinator belongs to admit some concerns in your Boarding Documents, you may not be allowed to board even if you were tested as PCR negative. The Co-ordinator will notify you on the final boarding permission status (*See* Note 10 for handling of personal information).
- In case you are diagnosed as positive by a medical doctor after the PCR testing, you will be notified the result directly from the medical agency. Report it immediately to the Coordinator, your supervisor and MarE3 HSQE Group Leader (Note 11). Cancel boarding and follow the instructions from your medical agency / public health centre.

(After receiving negative result from the Coordinator, and the boarding permission is issued, passengers move onboard and follow onboard rules thereafter).

### **At time of boarding**

- Recommend hand disinfection at the gangway when boarding.

- Provide your health insurance card, own body temperature measuring device, masks, towels, a cup and a water bottle for personal use during the cruise. If necessary, bring your vaccine certificate, antiseptics and personal beverages.
- Immediately after boarding, the principal researcher/chief scientist will take measures to prevent infection on the ship, and keep the passengers informed.

**The above standards may change based on the policies of the administrative agencies and JAMSTEC in the future. In addition, the above standards will remain effective until a new revised standard is issued or an instruction to cancel application is issued. If you have any questions, please contact the appropriate department of MarE3 through the Coordinator (*See below*).**

**Coordinator:**

Chief Scientist/Principal Investigator	For Boarding Researchers (Incl. subcontractors)
Person in charge of NME	For NME personnel (Incl. subcontractors)
Person in charge of MWJ	For MWJ personnel (Incl. subcontractors)
Person in charge of MOL Marine & Engineering	For MOL Marine & Engineering personnel (Incl. subcontractors)
JAMSTEC MarE3 Operations Department Fleet Operations Group	For JAMSTEC members (excluding JAMSTEC Boarding Researchers and Hakuho-maru sailors/crew) and JAMSTEC subcontractors/agents, public relations

MarE3 Operations Department Fleet Operations Group Contact (common for each ship):  
[mare3-fleetops-kikan@jamstec.go.jp](mailto:mare3-fleetops-kikan@jamstec.go.jp)

For questions about pre-boarding PCR test

Vaccination and first pre-boarding PCR test: MarE3 Operations Dept.

[mare3-fleetops-kikan@jamstec.go.jp](mailto:mare3-fleetops-kikan@jamstec.go.jp)

Final pre-boarding PCR test: MarE3 HSQE Group

[mare3-hsqecore@jamstec.go.jp](mailto:mare3-hsqecore@jamstec.go.jp)

HSQE Group, Group Leader

080-2071-4361

## Notes

### 1) Regarding "cruises by JAMSTEC vessels" in this document

As a general rule, all passengers who participate in the JAMSTEC cruise (performance confirmation test cruises are treated separately) shall undergo at least three times of vaccination in principle, and two times of PCR testing. Conditions for boarding during dock period will be informed from the Operations Department separately.

In addition to the above, if the ship goes beyond a four-day travel distance from Japanese port, restrictions for high-risk category personnel (personnel who tends to become serious when being infected by COVID-19) and four-nights pre-boarding quarantine in a hotel at the boarding location are required.

- In principle, those who belongs to the “high-risk categories” listed below are not allowed to board cruise moves beyond a four-day travel distance (except for the boarding while the ship is alongside), following the recommendations from JAMSTEC occupational health doctor.
  - Elderly people (70 years old or older)
  - Those who have basic illness such as listed below:
    - Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD)
    - Chronic kidney disease (except for having a medical doctor’s diagnosis and permission)
    - Diabetes (fasting blood glucose level 150 mg/dL or more, with or without oral treatment, HbA1c is less than 7.0%, in principle permitted)
    - Hypertension (except for having a medical doctor’s diagnosis and permission)
    - Cardiovascular disease (except for having a medical doctor’s diagnosis and permission)
  - Pregnancy (third trimester)

*cf. 11 things you need to know NOW about COVID-19*

<https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/covid-19/11thingstoknow.html>

### About self-quarantine

Self-quarantine at home is permitted to personnel who lives by oneself in the vicinity of the port of embarkation. After taking and dispatching the first pre-boarding PCR testing sample, move to the boarding location with taking infection preventive measures as much as possible, then quarantine yourself. During the quarantine period, minimise contact with others, avoid moving and eating out, and eat your meals alone in your hotel room. A passenger who boards at the foreign port shall consult with the MarE3

Operations Department through the Coordinator in advance.

The number of passengers may be reduced in order to secure at least one cabin per suspected infection individual to maintain quarantine aboard.

- 2) This assumes personnel other than seafarers. Operation crew are legally mariners; however, they are categorised as “passengers” here as taking their working conditions into consideration. Engineers and technicians hired by a researcher are categorised as “researchers”.
- 3) Complete three times or more vaccinations that Japanese government certifies (*See* MHLW website below). Responding to the requirement from the Operations Department, prepare a vaccination certificate and bring it at the boarding.

Those who do not meet the above condition are allowed to board if the following conditions are met: Take two pre-boarding PCR tests (1<sup>st</sup>: a week before the boarding; 2<sup>nd</sup> (final): within 72 hours to the boarding) to confirm negative status, and conduct a four-night self-quarantine in a hotel or other accommodation at the boarding location, and conduct all necessary procedures except for those related to vaccination. However, if vaccination is required by the port state of the research area or a planned emergency entry port, the above exemption option cannot be applied.

Self-quarantine at home is permitted to personnel who lives by oneself in the vicinity of the port of embarkation.

*cf.* Japanese government-certified vaccines (MHLW)

[https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/covid-19/border\\_vaccine.html](https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/covid-19/border_vaccine.html)

- 4) Examples of the symptoms that should be recorded in the Health Logbook (use designated form): Breathing difficulties (dyspnea), headache, strong fatigue (malaise), and abnormalities in sense of taste and smell.

The Activity Log will be utilised to check of your self-management status during the pre-boarding period. For this purpose, you are required to record your daily activities before and during being aboard.

Note that the day of boarding is counted as “Day 0” in Health / Activity Logs.

- 5) Upon receiving the report from the passenger, the MarE3 Operations Department will determine availability of the final pre-boarding PCR testing. In case of having a report after sampling for the first pre-boarding PCR testing, conduct another PCR testing (at the passenger’s cost) and submit the result to the Fleet Operations Group through the

Coordinator by the noon of the day before the final pre-boarding PCR test.

High fever, chill or headache WITHOUT any other cold-like symptoms such as cough, pain in the throat and breathing difficulty within three days after COVID-19 vaccination (the day of vaccination and two days after that) are likely to be side-effects of vaccination. In such a case, an additional PCR testing before the final pre-boarding PCR test will not be required.

#### 6) PCR test implementation for non-mariner personnel

- MarE3 will contact you regarding the specific location, timing, method and conditions for exemption of PCR testing.
- The first pre-boarding tests, managed by the Operations Department, are conducted via mail around 7 days before boarding. Diagnosis of the result by a medical doctor is not mandatory. The final pre-boarding test managed by the HSQE Group is conducted within 72 hours to the boarding at the port of embarkation in principle, which requires a medical doctor's diagnosis (Note 8).
- In the event that scheduled boarding scientists test positive, all should have a nominated designated replacement described in the Implementation Manual, to include the Chief Scientist/Principal Investigator, if possible. Stand-by Deputy Chief Scientists / Principal Investigators can be chosen from the science party members (including stand-bys). All nominated replacement personnel are required to follow all pre-boarding requirements (submission of the Boarding Documents and PCR test, etc.).
- If the student supervisor tests positive for COVID-19 and is barred from boarding. In the case of undergraduate students: Boarding is not permitted unless a researcher from the same laboratory has been assigned as a substitute supervisor. In the case of graduate students: Boarding is permitted only if a pre-nominated substitute supervisor boards the vessel.
- Passengers who plan to be onboard continuously, on to the next cruise, shall comply with the behavioural rules of the ship.
- In principle, the inspection costs for passengers who require PCR inspection will be borne by JAMSTEC.
- After the PCR inspection, visiting and overnight stay on the ship is not possible in principle until the inspection result is obtained.
- Treatment via antigen test conducted at airports, etc., will be decided by MarE3

according to the national guidelines.

7) In cases where personnel who were infected with COVID-19 and recovered (=quarantine period was over) within one month before boarding, the personnel could take the final pre-boarding PCR test. If the doctor judges that the personnel are no longer infectious, they will be permitted to board, in principle.

8) PCR testing with a medical doctor's diagnosis

There are some descriptions on the MHLW website about differences of PCR testing with and without a medical doctor's diagnosis.

- The negative test result itself does not automatically mean that you are not infected unless it was diagnosed by a medical doctor.
- In case you are diagnosed as being infected by a medical doctor, the doctor shall report it to the public health centre based on the Infectious Disease Law.
- As a nature of the PCR testing, there are some cases of false-negative (a person who is actually infected is tested negative) and false-positive (a person who is actually not infected is tested positive).

*cf. MHLW: "About PCR testing with one's own expense" (in Japanese)*

[https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/seisakunitsuite/bunya/0000121431\\_00199.html](https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/seisakunitsuite/bunya/0000121431_00199.html)

*List of test facilities that provide PCR testing with one's own expense (in Japanese)*

[https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/seisakunitsuite/bunya/kenkou\\_iryuu/covid19-jihikensa\\_00001.html](https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/seisakunitsuite/bunya/kenkou_iryuu/covid19-jihikensa_00001.html)

9) The document can be typed (signature is not required).

10) Collected personal information is used only for the purpose of research cruises. Its use shall be limited under the control of the Coordinators of MarE3 and each organisation.

11) Even the test result is "positive", if a medical doctor diagnosed to be not infectious, it is treated as "negative". As an example, personnel who was infected with COVID-19 and recovered may correspond to this case.

In such a case, the result is treated exactly the same as "PCR negative" cases; the doctor does not report to the public health centre and the testee will not receive any report from the medical agency or the public health centre. As far as other conditions are met for boarding criteria, a boarding permission will be issued.

On the other hand, even the test result is "negative", if a medical doctor diagnosed to be infectious based on the symptoms, it is treated as "positive".



September 13, 2021  
February 1, 2022  
March 22, 2022  
June 20, 2022  
Updated August 8, 2022  
September 30, 2022  
February 1, 2023

YAMATO Hiroyuki, President  
Head of the Emergency Response Headquarters, JAMSTEC

[COVID-19] Policy on cruise operations [Revision 6]

Since the issuance of this policy (first edition on September 13, 2021), we have requested that all crew members/passengers on board be vaccinated against COVID-19 at least twice, in principle.

The government recommends at least three times of vaccination. But vaccinations of crew members on board the JAMSTEC vessels have not always been updated, as they tend to work long-term, take vacations, and have limited periods of leave at land. But now they have completed the third round of vaccinations, which will be reflected in the new policy.

Those who do not meet the vaccination requirements have been allowed to board only on voyages within a 4-day rhumb from a Japanese port, on condition of a negative PCR test before boarding and self-isolation (bubble method) for 4 days before boarding at the boarding place. However, in light of the government's "Policy Concept for Living With COVID-19" (September 8, 2022), and to provide more opportunities for research activities, we will allow passengers who meet the requirements of the PCR test and bubble method above to be onboard even on voyages outside the 4-day rhumb from a Japanese port. (However, this will not apply when the coastal countries of the research voyage or assumed emergency ports require specific numbers of vaccinations in their border control measures.)

We ask that all passengers continue to take infection preventive measures before and during voyages and receive the COVID-19 vaccine recommended by the government.

The new policy on cruise operations is as follows. This Policy applies, in principle, to voyages departing today or later.

1. As a general rule, crew members/passengers who have received at least three vaccinations can participate voyages.
2. Preconditions for voyages  
All new passengers must:
  - Undergo PCR tests twice (a week and within 72 hours before boarding) to confirm negative
  - Follow the latest "MarE3 Criteria for Boarding Ships for Prevention of COVID-19 Outbreak" (Boarding Criteria) to take care of their health
3. However, even if passengers do not meet the requirements of 1., they can be on board a vessel after self-isolation before boarding at the boarding place, and taking PCR test (negative confirmation) as in 2. on the premise that they will take care of their health following the latest Boarding Criteria.

# Mask Use Guidance

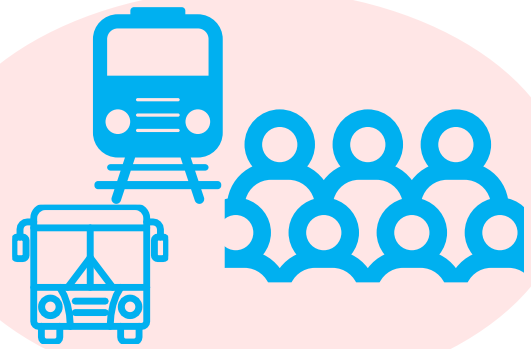
## Starting From 13 March 2023

**Mask Use Will Largely Depend On Personal Choice**  
instead of current general requirements

**Mask use will be recommended for:**



**Medical institutions  
and nursing homes**



**In crowded trains or buses**

**Mask use will provide protection for:**

**People who have a higher risk of serious illness**  
(\*Especially in crowded settings)



**Elderly People**



**People with underlying  
medical conditions**

Chronic liver disease  
Cancer  
Cardiovascular illness  
etc.



**Pregnant  
women**

**Please remember to be understanding and respectful of personal choices**  
**not to force someone to wear or take off their masks**

\*The operators are permitted to enforce certain regulations for its users and employees on its premises

