



September 25, 2020

Juan M. Kuryla  
America's Cruise Seaports Committee  
PortMiami, Office of the Port Director  
1015 North America Way, 2nd Floor  
Miami, Florida 33132-2081

Dear Mr. Kuryla:

Thank you for your recent letter regarding the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic and the reopening of economic activity at American seaports. With more than 5,000 personnel supporting the pandemic response, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is at the forefront of the federal government's efforts to control the spread of COVID-19. The decades we have dedicated to fighting outbreaks and pandemics gives us the experience needed to mitigate the impact of this virus to the American public.

My staff and I are unable to meet with America's Cruise Seaports Committee at this time. Currently, CDC does not have enough information to determine when it will be safe for cruise ships to resume passenger operations. We will continue to work with cruise lines to ensure that all necessary public health procedures are in place before cruise lines begin sailing with passengers. We recommend that all people defer travel on cruise ships worldwide, including river cruises, and we have issued a Level 3 Travel Health Notice (<https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices>) for cruise ship travel. We have provided resources specific to the cruise industry and cruising public on our website. Please see *Cruise Ship Guidance* (<https://www.cdc.gov/quarantine/cruise/index.html>) and *Travelers Returning from Cruise Ship and River Cruise Voyages* (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/returning-cruise-voyages.html>).

CDC is working with state and local partners and other stakeholders to support decision making regarding reopening, as decisions will vary from locality to locality. We are also working with partners to develop tools and information to support these decisions; help make the return to work as safe and healthy as possible for employers, employees, and the public; and post guidance and decision tools soon to assist state and local partners and other stakeholders in making decisions about re-opening, including re-opening businesses, and adjusting mitigation strategies. Please see *CDC Activities and Initiatives Supporting the COVID-19 Response and the President's Plan for Opening America Up Again* ([www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/php/CDC-Activities-Initiatives-for-COVID-19-Response.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/php/CDC-Activities-Initiatives-for-COVID-19-Response.pdf)), resources for businesses and workplaces ([www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/businesses-employers.html](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/businesses-employers.html)), and additional resources for addressing worker safety and support ([www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/worker-safety-support/index.html](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/worker-safety-support/index.html)), including those in the transportation sector. Please also see *Interim Guidance for Businesses and Employers Responding to COVID-19* ([www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/guidance-business-response.html](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/guidance-business-response.html)).

CDC remains committed to protecting the American public in the face of this pandemic. There is much more to learn about the transmissibility, severity, and other characteristics of COVID-19, and investigations are ongoing. We are adjusting our response and guidance as conditions change and as we learn more about this emerging infectious disease. Please regularly visit our COVID-19 website ([www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html)) for CDC's latest and most up-to-date information, resources, and guidance.

For additional information, please visit *CDC's role in helping cruise ship travelers during the COVID-19 pandemic* (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/cruise-ship/what-cdc-is-doing.html>).

Thank you for your interest in this ongoing response. We appreciate your support as we all work together to fight COVID-19.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert R. Redfield MD". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "R" at the beginning.

Robert R. Redfield, MD  
Director, CDC