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PRESS RELEASE

Date: July 9, 2021 1500
From: Petersburg Medical Center

PRESS RELEASE: This is an update to the press release issued 7/8/21 regarding a cruise ship passenger who tested positive for COVID-19. On 7/9/21, PMC was notified of two additional persons who tested positive on the American Cruise Lines vessel *American Constellation*. These individuals have been placed into isolation in Petersburg. An American Cruise Lines representative is staying in Petersburg to assist these individuals. Additional crew members who are not fully vaccinated and were considered close contacts to the positive crew member are also being tested for COVID-19 and will be placed in quarantine on the vessel. Crew who have been identified as contacts will remain on the vessel until released by public health.

Personnel from the Alaska Division of Public Health, American Cruise Lines and Petersburg Medical Center met this morning to discuss the outbreak response plan. Based on currently available information, the risk to the community of Petersburg is considered to be low. American Cruise Lines personnel reported that all passengers onboard this vessel have been fully vaccinated and therefore permitted Friday morning to leave the boat for tourism related activities. The State Division of Public Health continues to urge the community and all Alaska residents to adopt strong mitigation processes to prevent the transmission of COVID-19, especially in persons not immunized. and to seek a COVID-19 vaccine to reduce the risk of serious illness that could result in hospitalization or death.

“In order to prevent community transmission of COVID-19 during the tourist season, we strongly encourage all Alaskans who are eligible to get vaccinated if they haven’t already done so,” said Dr. Joe McLaughlin, Alaska’s State Epidemiologist. “Those who are not vaccinated are at greater risk of infection, serious illness and long-term adverse health consequences from COVID-19.”

PMC applauds the quick response by American Cruise Lines and State of Alaska to this incident. The following statement was provided by American Cruise Lines:

American Cruise Lines has implemented its COVID-19 Response Plan in Alaska and is coordinating with state and local health officials following the detection of COVID-19 on board. Three people have tested positive, two of whom are fully-vaccinated. Out of an abundance of caution, the Line’s small ship will return to port in Juneau and the next cruise, scheduled to depart on July 14th, will be cancelled. American resumed domestic small ship cruise operations in March and since then has carried over 10,000 passengers aboard 130 U.S. cruises without incident. American operates in 31 states and has worked with each of them to safely resume operating. State and local officials in Alaska have been engaged, and have been working together with American Cruise Lines to ensure a swift and effective implementation of the Response Plan.

For additional questions email media@americancruiselines.com or covid@pmc-health.org

Please refer to the CDC webpage for information on symptoms and precautionary measures at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

Additional current information on COVID-19 is available through the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS) at <http://dhss.alaska.gov/dph/Epi/id/Pages/COVID-19/default.aspx>

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