

Senate Select Committee on COVID-19
Answers to questions on notice
Agriculture, Water and the Environment Portfolio

Kind/Committee: Senate Select Committee on COVID-19

Inquiry name: Inquiry into the Australian Government's response to the COVID-19 pandemic

Division/Agency: Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment

Topic: The Ruby Princess

Hearing Date: 5 May 2020

Question Date: 8 May 2020

Question Type: Written

Senator Keneally asked:

1. Please table each communication between the Department of Agriculture and the Ruby Princess with regard to Human Health Reports it submitted as part of its voyage terminating 19 March in Sydney.
2. Please table each communication between the Department of Agriculture and New South Wales Health with regard to Human Health Reports submitted by the Ruby Princess as part of its voyage terminating 19 March in Sydney.
3. Please table each communication between the Department of Agriculture and either the Department of Home Affairs and/or the Australian Border Force with regard to Human Health Reports submitted by the Ruby Princess as part of its voyage terminating 19 March in Sydney.
4. Please table each communication between the Department of Agriculture and the Minister for Home Affairs or his office with regard to Human Health Reports submitted by the Ruby Princess as part of its voyage terminating 19 March in Sydney.
5. In relation to Question 1 – did any official from the Department of Agriculture specifically ask medical staff on board the Ruby Princess whether patients were displaying symptoms consistent with COVID-19? If yes, who and when?
6. In relation to Questions 2 and 3 – did any official from the Department of Agriculture raise concerns specifically about the risk of COVID-19 onboard the Ruby Princess with the relevant Departments? If yes, who and when?

Answer:

1. On 16 March 2020, the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (DAWE) issued a Biosecurity Status Document (BSD) to the Ruby Princess (Attachment 1) in response to the Human Health Reports (HHR) it submitted. DAWE issued another BSD to the Ruby Princess on 19 March 2020 (Attachment 2).

The Ruby Princess submitted the following HHRs to DAWE:

- a. 16 March 2020 at 13:46, as part of a pre-arrival report (Attachment 3)
- b. HHR: 16 March 2020 at 15:01 (Attachment 4)
- c. HHR: 18 March 2020 at 08:54 (Attachment 5)

- d. HHR: 18 March 2020 at 19:21 (Attachment 6)
2. There is routine communication between DAWE biosecurity officers and NSW Health officials in relation to vessel arrivals. Written communications relevant to the 19 March 2020 arrival of the Ruby Princess are attached:
 - a. DAWE and NSW Health had an sms exchange commencing at 07:30 (Attachment 7).
 - b. NSW Health copied DAWE into its email to Sydney Port Authority detailing its assessment of the health status of the vessel (Attachment 8).
3. There are no such communications.
4. There are no such communications.
5. In relation to question 1, no official from DAWE specifically asked medical staff on board the Ruby Princess whether patients were displaying symptoms consistent with COVID-19. This information is requested through a HHR prior to a vessel's arrival and. Any change to this information is required to be notified to the department. These reports are made available to the relevant state authority for the purposes of assessing human health risks, which in the case of the Ruby Princess was NSW Health.
6. In relation to questions 2 and 3, DAWE's primary mechanism for raising concerns about the risk of listed human diseases, which includes COVID-19, is negative pratique. The attached BSDs show that the Ruby Princess required negative pratique, triggered by the HHRs submitted to DAWE by the Ruby Princess. As indicated above, the HHRs were available to NSW Health to inform their human health assessment.

Separately, a biosecurity officer raised concerns via SMS specifically about the risk of COVID-19 onboard the Ruby Princess with NSW Health (Attachment 7).

Prior to biosecurity officers boarding the vessel, NSW Health had undertaken an assessment of the information provided by the Ruby Princess. NSW Health determined there was a low level of human health risk.

On the morning of 19 March 2020, biosecurity officers reconfirmed with NSW Health the approach to managing passengers and the advice remained there were no concerns relating to passengers leaving the vessel. Biosecurity officers did not intervene with the disembarkation of passengers, consistent with this advice, and allowed passengers to continue to disembark.



Australian Government

**Department of Agriculture,
Water and the Environment**

Biosecurity Status Document

Vessel Name: RUBY PRINCESS

IMO Number: 9378462

Document Version: 1

Call Sign: ZCDY2

Voyage Number: RU2007

Issued on: 16/03/2020 2:09:35 PM (Canberra Time)

Details

The following information provides the status of this voyage as of the date noted above. Where changes occur, a revised version of this document will be provided.

Conditions outlined in this document include directions issued under a specific section of the *Biosecurity Act 2015* and guidance on how to comply with the department's requirements. Failure to follow these conditions may constitute an offence, which may lead to penalties or prosecution under the *Biosecurity Act 2015*. More detail is in the footnotes included at the end of this document.

The vessel's master and agent must comply with the department's requirements and directions, including providing all relevant documentation upon request. The department must be notified immediately of any changes to the information provided in relation to this voyage. This includes changes to berthing/departure times or locations.

Berthing Conditions in Australian First Point of Entry Ports	
<p>The vessel has met its reporting requirements and is eligible to berth in Australian first points of entry. The operator of the vessel must, as soon as practical, notify a biosecurity officer if information in the pre-arrival report is incomplete or incorrect.</p>	

Berthing Conditions in Australian Non First Point of Entry Ports	
<p>If you intend to enter a Non-First Point of Entry port during your voyage in Australian waters you must receive approval from the department prior to arrival in the port.</p> <p>All major Australian ports have been determined as First Points of Entry and are listed on the department's website at http://www.agriculture.gov.au/biosecurity/avm/vessels/first-point-entry-and-non-first-point-entry. Vessels may visit any First Point of Entry during their voyage in Australia.</p> <p>It is an offence for a vessel subject to biosecurity control to moor and/or unload goods at a port in Australian territory that is not a first point of entry, unless the Director of Biosecurity (or delegate) has given permission.</p>	

Vessel Biosecurity	
<p>The vessel is scheduled for inspection at the next port. This may change without notice.</p> <p>Vessel will be risk assessed for Asian Gypsy Moth (Non-Far East Russian Port), Burnt Pine Longicorn and Novel coronavirus and may require an inspection.</p> <p>Please complete the seasonal pest checklist(s) and return to maritimncc@awe.gov.au.</p> <p>The master has declared live plants on board the vessel. All plants must be kept inside and away from open doors and with windows closed. Unless authorised to do so, all plants should be kept inside the vessel while the vessel is in port and remain on board the vessel in Australian territory^d.</p>	



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**Department of Agriculture,
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No plant, foodstuffs or goods (excluding goods carried as cargo) may be removed from the vessel without the approval or direction of a biosecurity officer.

Increased intervention and a stronger enforcement approach is currently in place to keep African Swine Fever (ASF) out of Australia. Passengers and crew must not remove jerky, biltong and other pork products from the vessel.

Galley grinders, waste chutes and swing bins that discharge waste overboard must not be used in Australian ports or waters. Foodstuffs must not be used as bait for fishing in Australian ports or waters.

Masters must advise the department of:

- any crew departing; and/or,
- waste being discharged from the vessel to a provider that does not have an approved arrangement.

Hitchhiking and migratory birds must be removed from the vessel prior to the vessel entering Australian territorial sea. Report any insects or animals, including rodents found on board the vessel during the voyage to the department. Refer to the Biosecurity Checklist for Vessel Masters and information on the Vessel Compliance Scheme to ensure compliance with the department's requirements.

Vessel Pratique and Ship Sanitation



The department has been notified that there are human health issues on board the vessel, which will be assessed at time of inspection. The vessel must continue to display the Quarantine Signal (letter Q in the International Code of Signals).

The vessel's master or agent must notify the department as soon as practicable if any individuals on board have signs or symptoms of a listed human disease during the current Australian voyage.

Ballast Status



The vessel has declared that it does not intend to discharge from the following tanks: DB 13P, DB 15P, DB 16S, DB 18S, DB 1C, DB 2C, DB14S, DB17P and FPT. A new Ballast Water Report must be submitted if discharge intentions change.

All ballast water must be managed in accordance with the Australian Ballast Water Management Requirements. The vessel may commit an offence if unmanaged ballast water is discharged from any tank on this vessel. This includes Australian sourced ballast water intended for discharge within Australian seas

If the vessel becomes aware that the information provided in the Ballast Water Report is incomplete or incorrect, additional or corrected information must be provided as soon as possible. Vessels taking up ballast in the Australian seas are highly encouraged to resubmit an additional Ballast Water Report prior to discharge of Australian sourced water.

Ballast water exchange must not be conducted in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, as set out in the Australian Ballast Water Requirements.

The vessel may commit an offence if sediment is discharged in Australian seas from any tank on this vessel. All ballast sediment should be removed to a landside facility in accordance with Australian federal and state waste management policies. Disposal of ballast tank sediment outside the 200Nm limit is an acceptable management practice.



Australian Government
**Department of Agriculture,
Water and the Environment**

Footnotes

These footnotes provide more detail on the conditions specified in this document. This document does not release the vessel's cargo from biosecurity control. It also does not supersede any reporting requirements, directions or security determinations from other Australian or State Government agencies.

More information on this document can be found on the department's website:

<http://www.awe.gov.au/biosecurity/avm/vessels>

Ref	Section Title
a	<p>This vessel is released from biosecurity control under Section 218 of the <i>Biosecurity Act 2015</i>. This is a notice releasing the vessel from biosecurity control under section 219. The vessel may become subject to biosecurity control in the future, if it:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• enters Australian territory on a journey that commenced outside Australia;• is exposed to another conveyance or to prescribed goods that are subject to biosecurity control;• leaves Australian territory and is exposed to another conveyance. <p>If the vessel becomes subject to biosecurity control in the future, additional reporting will be required.</p>
b	<p>Permission to moor at a port that is not a declared first point of entry may be issued under section 247 of <i>Biosecurity Act 2015</i>. Permission to unload goods at a port that is not a declared First Point of Entry may be issued under section 146.</p>
c	<p>Pratique is granted to this vessel under the <i>Biosecurity Act 2015</i>. Pratique is granted at the "Issued On" time stated on the first BSD that this condition appears.</p>
d	<p>The goods or conveyance specified by this notice are subject to biosecurity control or are on board a conveyance that is subject to biosecurity control. A biosecurity control notice has been issued under section 129 or 203 of the <i>Biosecurity Act 2015</i>.</p>
e	<p>The goods or conveyance specified by this notice are required to be treated as specified, in accordance with section 133 or 208 of the <i>Biosecurity Act 2015</i>.</p>
f	<p>The goods specified in this notice have been brought into Australia in contravention of the <i>Biosecurity Act 2015</i>. Unless you comply with this notice within the timeframe specified, the Director of Biosecurity will determine that the goods are forfeited to the Commonwealth under section 628 of the <i>Biosecurity Act 2015</i>. If goods are forfeited to the Commonwealth, a biosecurity officer may take possession of the goods and cause the goods to be sold, destroyed, removed from Australian territory or otherwise disposed of.</p>
g	<p>The conveyance specified in this notice has been directed to move to a place not outside Australian territory under section 202 of the <i>Biosecurity Act 2015</i>.</p>



Australian Government
**Department of Agriculture,
Water and the Environment**

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Australian Government

**Department of Agriculture,
Water and the Environment**

Biosecurity Status Document

Vessel Name: RUBY PRINCESS

IMO Number: 9378462

Document Version: 5

Call Sign: ZCDY2

Voyage Number: RU2007

Issued on: 19/03/2020 7:39:57 AM (Canberra Time)

Details

The following information provides the status of this voyage as of the date noted above. Where changes occur, a revised version of this document will be provided.

Conditions outlined in this document include directions issued under a specific section of the *Biosecurity Act 2015* and guidance on how to comply with the department's requirements. Failure to follow these conditions may constitute an offence, which may lead to penalties or prosecution under the *Biosecurity Act 2015*. More detail is in the footnotes included at the end of this document.

The vessel's master and agent must comply with the department's requirements and directions, including providing all relevant documentation upon request. The department must be notified immediately of any changes to the information provided in relation to this voyage. This includes changes to berthing/departure times or locations.

Berthing Conditions in Australian First Point of Entry Ports	<input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/>
<p>The vessel has met its reporting requirements and is eligible to berth in Australian first points of entry. The operator of the vessel must, as soon as practical, notify a biosecurity officer if information in the pre-arrival report is incomplete or incorrect.</p>	

Berthing Conditions in Australian Non First Point of Entry Ports	<input checked="" type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>
<p>If you intend to enter a Non-First Point of Entry port during your voyage in Australian waters you must receive approval from the department prior to arrival in the port.</p> <p>All major Australian ports have been determined as First Points of Entry and are listed on the department's website at http://www.agriculture.gov.au/biosecurity/avm/vessels/first-point-entry-and-non-first-point-entry. Vessels may visit any First Point of Entry during their voyage in Australia.</p> <p>It is an offence for a vessel subject to biosecurity control to moor and/or unload goods at a port in Australian territory that is not a first point of entry, unless the Director of Biosecurity (or delegate) has given permission.</p>	

Vessel Biosecurity	<input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/>
<p>All plants should be kept inside and away from open doors and with windows closed. Unless authorised to do so, all plants should be kept inside the vessel while the vessel is in port and remain on board the vessel in Australian territory.</p> <p>No plant, foodstuffs or goods (excluding goods carried as cargo) may be removed from the vessel without the approval or direction of a biosecurity officer.</p> <p>Increased intervention and a stronger enforcement approach is currently in place to keep African Swine Fever (ASF) out of Australia. Passengers and crew must not remove jerky, biltong and other pork products from the vessel.</p>	

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Australian Government

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- any crew departing; and/or,
- waste being discharged from the vessel to a provider that does not have an approved arrangement.

Hitchhiking and migratory birds must be removed from the vessel prior to the vessel entering Australian territorial sea. Report any insects or animals, including rodents found on board the vessel during the voyage to the department. Refer to the Biosecurity Checklist for Vessel Masters and information on the Vessel Compliance Scheme to ensure compliance with the department's requirements.

Vessel Pratique and Ship Sanitation



Pratique is granted to the RUBY PRINCESS for all ports in Australia^C. The Quarantine Signal (letter Q in the International Code of Signals) is not required to be displayed.

The vessel's master or agent must notify the department as soon as practicable if any individuals on board have signs or symptoms of a listed human disease during the current Australian voyage.

Ballast Status



The vessel has declared that it does not intend to discharge from the following tanks: DB 13P, DB 15P, DB 16S, DB 18S, DB 1C, DB 2C, DB14S, DB17P and FPT. A new Ballast Water Report must be submitted if discharge intentions change.

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Footnotes

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Pre-Arrival Report



Australian Government
**Department of Agriculture,
 Water and the Environment**

This is a COPY of the Pre-Arrival Report submitted to the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment. If the Master or Agent of this vessel becomes aware that the information contained in this report is inaccurate, incomplete or out of date, they must complete a new report correcting the information as soon as practicable. Failure to provide this information is in breach of the *Biosecurity Act 2015*.

Vessel Particulars

Vessel Name	IMO		
Ruby Princess	9378462		
Call Sign	Registration/Official #	Country of Registry	
ZCDY2	737959	Bermuda	
Vessel Type	Master's Name		
Cruise Vessel	Giorgio Pomata		
Year Built	Gross Tonnage	Net Tonnage	
2008	113561	83977	
Length (m)	Crew Capacity	Passenger Capacity	
289	1200	3599	
Cargo Holds	Cargo Decks	Cargo Tanks	
Vessel Email			
██████████@princesscruises.com			

Arrival Details

Voyage #	Last International Port of Call		
RU2007	Napier (New Zealand)		
Australian Ports of Call			
Will the vessel berth at the first port of call?		Yes	
First Port of Call	Arrival/Anchorage Date/Time	Departure Date/Time	
Sydney	19/03/2020 06:00	19/03/2020 18:45	
Berth Name	Berth Date/Time		
Overseas Passenger Terminal	19/03/2020 06:00		

Vessel Itinerary in Australia

Port	Date	Port Agency	Billing Agency	Crew Agency
Sydney	19/03/2020	Carnival Australia Sydney	Carnival Australia Sydney	Carnival Australia Sydney

Sanitation

Certificate Type

Control Exemption
Certificate

Port of Issue

Sydney (Australia)

Date of Issue

05/12/2019

Will the vessel require a new Sanitation Certificate?

No

Human Health

1.) Have any persons died on board during the current voyage?

NO

1.1) How many persons died?

1.2) Cause or suspected cause of death:

**Resp
onse** **Number**

2.) Have any persons become ill or shown signs of illness in the past 14 days?

Yes 53

2.1) Is any person on board the vessel displaying any of the following symptoms?

2.1.1) Temperature over 38°C (if no thermometer is available, any person suspected of having a temperature should be reported)	Yes	10
2.1.2) Acute unexplained non-itchy skin rashes or lesions, and non-itchy rashes or lesions caused by illness or exposure to hazardous agents (but not heat rashes, dermatitis, eczema, or similar common skin conditions)	No	
2.1.3) Muscle aches, diarrhoea, severe headaches or vomiting (but not vomiting caused by inebriation or motion sickness)	Yes	4
2.1.4) Severe bruising or bleeding from the nose, ears, eyes, mouth, anus or skin (but not in a person pre-disposed to nosebleeds or haemorrhoids, or has cuts and abrasions)	No	
2.1.5) Glandular swelling in armpits or neck	No	
2.1.6) Prolonged loss of consciousness where a person cannot be roused (but not loss of consciousness caused by consumption of alcohol, drugs or medications, fainting or sleeping)	No	
2.1.7) Persistent coughing and difficulty breathing with no apparent cause and no history of similar symptoms (but not persistent coughing and difficulty breathing caused by asthma, heart disease, obesity, chronic bronchitis or emphysema)	No	
2.1.8) Except in the case of a person with restricted mobility or an otherwise healthy young child - an inability to disembark from a vessel without assistance	No	
2.1.9) Yellowing of the skin/whites of the eyes	No	

2.2) Has the ill person(s) on board:

2.2.1) Been in contact with birds/bird products/someone suspected/confirmed of having Avian influenza in the last 14 days	No	
2.2.2) Eaten raw poultry/poultry products in the last 14 days	No	
2.2.3) Handled samples suspected of containing Avian Influenza virus in the last 14 days	No	
2.2.4) Travelled Africa, South/Central America or the Caribbean in the last 6 days and do not have a valid yellow fever vaccination certificate?	No	
2.2.5) Been in Africa in the last 21 days	No	
2.2.6) Been in contact with camels or bodily fluids from a camel, including having been coughed or sneezed on by a camel, or drunk raw camel milk or consumed camel meat in a country in the Middle East?	No	

C 2.3) Gastro-intestinal illness

2.3.1) Cases of diarrhoea and/or gastro intestinal illness have been recorded in the vessel's medical log during the current voyage and/or the last 21 days

Passengers

2.3.2) How many passengers and crew were on board during the current voyage and/or last 21 days

2647	1148
------	------

2.3.3) Was there any situation on board, which may lead to infection or the spread of disease

Details:

2.a) Has the vessel left mainland China and/or Iran and/or Republic of Korea and/or Italy in the last 14 days?

2.b) Has any person on the vessel felt mainland China and/or Iran and/or Republic of Korea and/or Italy in the last 14 days?

How many persons?

2.c) Has any person on the vessel been in contact with a proven case of COVID-19 in the last 14 days?

How many persons?

Biosecurity

3) Are there any animals (including birds and/or fish) as ship's pets on board the vessel?

Type of Animal	No.	Description (including health condition)

3.1) Did any animals die during the current voyage?

3.1.1) How many animals died?

3.1.2) Describe how the dead animals were disposed

4) Were there any other animals (including birds and/or fish) detected on board the vessel? No

Type of Animal **No.** **Description (including health condition)**

Type of Animal	No.	Description (including health condition)

4.1) Did any animals die during the current voyage?

4.1.1) How many animals died?

4.1.2) Describe how the dead animals were disposed

5) Were there any insects, including bees, discovered onboard during the current voyage? No

Describe the insects and their location when discovered on the vessel:

6) In the past 24 months was the vessel in a Russian Far East Port/s between 40 N, 60 N, *and west of 147 E during any period between 1 July and 30 September? No

6.1) Please provide the names and dates of the ports visited

Port	Arrival Date	Departure Date	Time

6.2) Since the last visit to any Russian Port was the vessel inspected and cleared by an agricultural authority in Australia, Russia, Canada, New Zealand or the USA as free of Asian Gypsy Moth?

AGM Certificate No.	Country of Issue	Issue Date

7) Since the vessel's last inspection in Australia, has the vessel carried any livestock, bulk seeds (including grain) or bulk meal (being meal that contains plant or animal, including fish or bird material) in the last 10 cargoes? No

Cargo - Commodity	Loading Port	Discharging Port	Discharge Date	Cleaning

8) Has the waste on board the vessel been securely contained in a container or sealed room so that no waste is accessible to animals and there is no leakage? Yes

9) Do you intend to discharge waste in port?

Port-Arrival Date	Discharge Date	Estimated Volume (m3)
Sydney	19/03/2020	99

10) Will the crew sign off while the vessel is at berth or anchorage in Australian waters?

Port-Arrival Date	Disembark Date	Disembark Time	No. of Crew	Biosecurity items to declare	Item Details
Sydney	19/03/2020	0700	73	No	

11) Do you intend to discharge any ballast water sourced in Australia during this voyage?

Port – Arrive/Anchorage Date

12) Are there any live plants on board?

12.1) What is the location, health and condition of the live plants?

End of Pre-Arrival Report

Submitted by

Submitted on



Australian Government

**Department of Agriculture,
Water and the Environment**

Human Health Update

This is a COPY of the Pre-Arrival Report submitted to the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment. If the Master or Agent of this vessel becomes aware that the information contained in this report is inaccurate, incomplete or out of date, they must complete a new report correcting the information as soon as practicable. Failure to provide this information is in breach of the *Biosecurity Act 2015*.

Vessel Particulars

Vessel Name

Ruby Princess

IMO

9378462

Call Sign

ZCDY2

Registration/Official #

737959

Country of Registry

Bermuda

Vessel Type

Cruise Vessel

Vessel Email

██████████@princesscruises.com

Arrival Details

Voyage #

RU2007

Agency to which any updated conditions will be sent

Carnival Australia Sydney

Human Health

1.) Have any persons died on board during the current voyage?

NO

1.1) How many persons died?

1.2) Cause or suspected cause of death:

2.) Have any persons become ill or shown signs of illness in the past 14 days?

**Resp
onse**

Yes 53

2.1) Is any person on board the vessel displaying any of the following symptoms?

2.1.1) Temperature over 38°C (if no thermometer is available, any person suspected of having a temperature should be reported)

Yes 10

2.1.2) Acute unexplained non-itchy skin rashes or lesions, and non-itchy rashes or lesions caused by illness or exposure to hazardous agents (but not heat rashes, dermatitis, eczema, or similar common skin

No

conditions		
2.1.3) Muscle aches, diarrhoea, severe headaches or vomiting (but not vomiting caused by inebriation or motion sickness)	Yes	4
2.1.4) Severe bruising or bleeding from the nose, ears, eyes, mouth, anus or skin (but not in a person pre-disposed to nosebleeds or haemorrhoids, or has cuts and abrasions)	No	
2.1.5) Glandular swelling in armpits or neck	No	
2.1.6) Prolonged loss of consciousness where a person cannot be roused (but not loss of consciousness caused by consumption of alcohol, drugs or medications, fainting or sleeping)	No	
2.1.7) Persistent coughing and difficulty breathing with no apparent cause and no history of similar symptoms (but not persistent coughing and difficulty breathing caused by asthma, heart disease, obesity, chronic bronchitis or emphysema)	No	
2.1.8) Except in the case of a person with restricted mobility or an otherwise healthy young child - an inability to disembark from a vessel without assistance	No	
2.1.9) Yellowing of the skin/whites of the eyes	No	

2.2) Has the ill person(s) on board:

2.2.1) Been in contact with birds/bird products/someone suspected/confirmed of having Avian influenza in the last 14 days	No	
2.2.2) Eaten raw poultry/poultry products in the last 14 days	No	
2.2.3) Handled samples suspected of containing Avian Influenza virus in the last 14 days	No	
2.2.4) Travelled Africa, South/Central America or the Caribbean in the last 6 days and do not have a valid yellow fever vaccination certificate?	No	
2.2.5) Been in Africa in the last 21 days	No	
2.2.6) Been in contact with camels or bodily fluids from a camel, including having been coughed or sneezed on by a camel, or drunk raw camel milk or consumed camel meat in a country in the Middle East?	No	

C 2.3) Gastro-intestinal illness

2.3.1) Cases of diarrhoea and/or gastro intestinal illness have been recorded in the vessel's medical log during the current voyage and/or the last 21 days

Passengers **Crew**

2.3.2) How many passengers and crew were on board during the current voyage and/or last 21 days

2647	1148
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2.3.3) Was there any situation on board, which may lead to infection or the spread of disease

Details:

2.a) Has the vessel left mainland China and/or Iran and/or Republic of Korea and/or Italy in the last 14 days?

2.b) Has any person on the vessel felt mainland China and/or Iran and/or Republic of Korea and/or Italy in the last 14 days?

How many persons?

2.c) Has any person on the vessel been in contact with a proven case of COVID-19 in the last 14 days?

How many persons?

End of Pre-Arrival Report

Submitted by

Submitted on



Australian Government
**Department of Agriculture,
 Water and the Environment**

Human Health Update

This is a COPY of the Pre-Arrival Report submitted to the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment. If the Master or Agent of this vessel becomes aware that the information contained in this report is inaccurate, incomplete or out of date, they must complete a new report correcting the information as soon as practicable. Failure to provide this information is in breach of the *Biosecurity Act 2015*.

Vessel Particulars

Vessel Name

Ruby Princess

IMO

9378462

Call Sign

ZCDY2

Registration/Official #

737959

Country of Registry

Bermuda

Vessel Type

Cruise Vessel

Vessel Email

██████████@princesscruises.com

Arrival Details

Voyage #

RU2007

Agency to which any updated conditions will be sent

Carnival Australia Sydney

Human Health

1.) Have any persons died on board during the current voyage?

NO

1.1) How many persons died?

1.2) Cause or suspected cause of death:

2.) Have any persons become ill or shown signs of illness in the past 14 days?

**Resp
onse**

Yes 110

2.1) Is any person on board the vessel displaying any of the following symptoms?

2.1.1) Temperature over 38°C (if no thermometer is available, any person suspected of having a temperature should be reported)

Yes 17

2.1.2) Acute unexplained non-itchy skin rashes or lesions, and non-itchy rashes or lesions caused by illness or exposure to hazardous agents (but not heat rashes, dermatitis, eczema, or similar common skin

No

conditions		
2.1.3) Muscle aches, diarrhoea, severe headaches or vomiting (but not vomiting caused by inebriation or motion sickness)	Yes	6
2.1.4) Severe bruising or bleeding from the nose, ears, eyes, mouth, anus or skin (but not in a person pre-disposed to nosebleeds or haemorrhoids, or has cuts and abrasions)	No	
2.1.5) Glandular swelling in armpits or neck	No	
2.1.6) Prolonged loss of consciousness where a person cannot be roused (but not loss of consciousness caused by consumption of alcohol, drugs or medications, fainting or sleeping)	No	
2.1.7) Persistent coughing and difficulty breathing with no apparent cause and no history of similar symptoms (but not persistent coughing and difficulty breathing caused by asthma, heart disease, obesity, chronic bronchitis or emphysema)	No	
2.1.8) Except in the case of a person with restricted mobility or an otherwise healthy young child - an inability to disembark from a vessel without assistance	No	
2.1.9) Yellowing of the skin/whites of the eyes	No	

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██████████@princesscruises.com

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**Resp
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Yes 128

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How many persons?

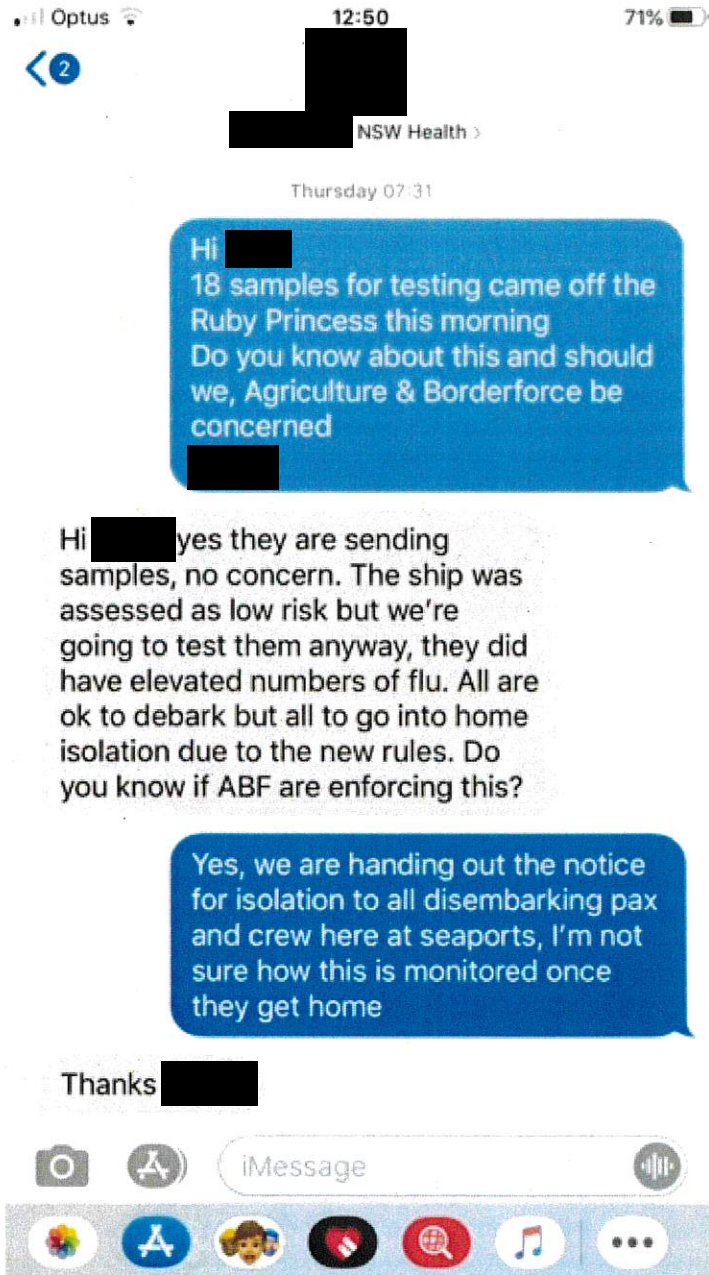
End of Pre-Arrival Report

Submitted by

Ruby Princess Vessel Master

Submitted on

18/03/2020 19:21



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 19 March 2020 12:57 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Ruby Princess - tomorrow [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi [REDACTED]

FYI, the process for the past month and tomorrow is the last cruise vessel with disembarking passengers (Celebrity Solstice from NZ Zealand)

Regards

[REDACTED]
Team Leader Seaports Sydney | Regional Vessel Coordinator
Inspection Group | Biosecurity Operations Division
Mobile: [REDACTED] Phone: [REDACTED]
Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment
Sydney International Airport, Level 1 Arrivals, Mascot NSW 2020

From: [REDACTED] (South Eastern Sydney LHD) [mailto:[REDACTED]@health.nsw.gov.au]
Sent: Thursday, 19 March 2020 12:03 PM
To: [REDACTED]@portauthoritynsw.com.au
Cc: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@health.nsw.gov.au>; [REDACTED] (South Eastern Sydney LHD) <[REDACTED]@health.nsw.gov.au>; Cc: [REDACTED]@portauthoritynsw.com.au>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@portauthoritynsw.com.au>; [REDACTED]@agriculture.gov.au>
Subject: FW: Ruby Princess - tomorrow [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Thanks for taking my call, and I have just spoken with [REDACTED] CHBO for NSW.

If you need NSW Health advice after hours please contact [REDACTED] (or whoever is on call in that role) on [REDACTED] I feel it is desirable to include [REDACTED] or his colleague in that conversation as normally access to the CHBO is through the relevant port Biosecurity Officer.

As you know, each cruise ship arriving in a NSW port is subject to a risk assessment by NSW Health the day prior to the ship berthing. It is possible the NSW Health and ship actions decided in the 18-24 hours prior to tying up might be modified closer to the event as new information (eg illness, fleet rules, policy changes etc) comes in.

In regards to queries about public health/biosecurity issues on commercial vessels, the same BO and CHBO process applies, although there is no routine assessment process by NSW Health and our program at South Eastern Sydney is not usually involved (but can be if [REDACTED] wishes to).

Hope this helps.

As mentioned could you please forward to us the current (and any further updated schedule) NSW cruise ship arrival schedule so we can plan the future risk assessments?

Best wishes

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Director and Public Health Officer, Public Health Unit,
Planning, Population Health and Equity,
South Eastern Sydney Local Health District;

[REDACTED]
Locked Bag 88, Randwick NSW 2031, Australia
Tel: [REDACTED], Fax: [REDACTED] Mobile: [REDACTED]
<http://www.seslhd.health.nsw.gov.au/public-health>

From: [REDACTED] [mailto:[REDACTED]@portauthoritynsw.com.au]
Sent: Thursday, 19 March 2020 10:19 AM
To: [REDACTED] (South Eastern Sydney LHD) [REDACTED]@health.nsw.gov.au>
Cc: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@portauthoritynsw.com.au>; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]@portauthoritynsw.com.au>
Subject: RE: Ruby Princess - tomorrow

Hi [REDACTED]

I understand from my manager, [REDACTED], that there was a lot of uncertainty about what was happening with the Ruby Princess in the early hours of the morning.

Can you please tell us who we can contact from Health during the night to ask questions and get clarity?

Kind regards

[REDACTED] | General Manager, Operations - Sydney

Port Authority of New South Wales
4 Towns Place | Millers Point NSW 2000 Australia
T: [REDACTED] | M: [REDACTED]
www.portauthoritynsw.com.au

From: [REDACTED] (South Eastern Sydney LHD) <[REDACTED]@health.nsw.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 18 March 2020 4:38 PM
To: [REDACTED] [REDACTED]@portauthoritynsw.com.au>
Subject: RE: Ruby Princess - tomorrow

Hi [REDACTED]

The ship has been assessed as low risk, so we won't be there. The ship does have elevated numbers of respiratory disease – lots tested flu positive.
They landed 5 samples in Wellington for COVID testing, all were negative. They will be sending about 15 samples for testing to our lab, just to be cautious.

We are not attending because:

- All passengers are required to go into 14 days self-isolation following government announcement
- The ship has provided all contact details should we need them.

- The ship is not taking on new passengers.

This decision has not formally been communicated to the ship yet as I am still trying to finalise recommendations for the people being tested, this might be why there is confusion.

Thanks

From: [redacted] [mailto:[redacted]@portauthoritynsw.com.au]

Sent: Wednesday, 18 March 2020 3:41 PM

To: [redacted] (South Eastern Sydney LHD) - [redacted]@health.nsw.gov.au>

Subject: Ruby Princess - tomorrow

Hi [redacted]

Can you please tell me if NSW Health has any plans to process any routine Health Screening onboard the Ruby Princess tomorrow? We are hearing whispers that may be the case.

Thanks

[redacted] | General Manager, Operations - Sydney

Port Authority of New South Wales

4 Towns Place | Millers Point NSW 2000 Australia
PO Box 25, Millers Point | NSW 2000 Australia

E: [redacted]@portauthoritynsw.com.au

T: [redacted] | M: [redacted]

www.portauthoritynsw.com.au

This message is intended for the addressee named and may contain confidential information. If you are not the intended recipient, please delete it and notify the sender.

Views expressed in this message are those of the individual sender, and are not necessarily the views of NSW Health or any of its entities.



Senate Select Committee on COVID-19
Answers to questions on notice
Agriculture, Water and the Environment Portfolio

Committee: Senate Select Committee on COVID-19

Inquiry name: Inquiry into the Australian Government's response to the COVID-19 pandemic

Division/Agency: Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment

Topic: Ruby Princess NSW Police Investigation

Hearing Date: 5 May 2020

Question Date: 8 May 2020

Question Type: Written

Senator Keneally asked:

1. NSW Police Commissioner Mick Fuller has said that he wishes to make the findings of the Strike Force Bast investigation into the *Ruby Princess* available to public if he is permitted. Will the Department make a commitment now that Ministers and officers will cooperate fully with the investigation into the *Ruby Princess*, and will not prevent attempt to prevent the findings of the NSW Police inquiry from being made public?

Answer:

1. The department will cooperate with the NSW Police investigation into the Ruby Princess in accordance with its responsibilities under the *Biosecurity Act 2015*. Publication of the NSW Police inquiry findings is a matter for NSW Police and it would not be appropriate to comment.