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Your weekly update on all things cruising.



CruiseAware Weekly Health & Safety Brief

May 10–16, 2026

Welcome aboard to this week’s cruise health and safety roundup — a quick, traveler-friendly digest of the biggest developments affecting cruise passengers around the world. From onboard illness outbreaks to evolving public health guidance, here’s what cruisers should know before heading to sea.

Major Story This Week: Hantavirus Outbreak Linked to Expedition Cruise

Global health authorities continue monitoring a rare hantavirus outbreak associated with the expedition cruise ship *MV Hondius*. The outbreak has now been linked to multiple confirmed infections and several deaths among passengers. The World Health Organization (WHO) and the CDC both issued updates this week emphasizing that the overall public risk remains low, but exposed travelers are being actively monitored.

Key updates:

- WHO confirmed multiple cases tied to the voyage.
- CDC released new guidance for passengers who were onboard between April 6 and May 10.
- French health authorities stated there is currently no evidence the virus has mutated into a more transmissible strain.

What This Means for Cruisers

This situation is extremely unusual. Hantavirus is not a common cruise-related illness, and experts continue to stress that risk to the broader traveling public remains very low. Still, the outbreak highlights how expedition and remote-destination cruising can introduce unique health considerations.

Traveler takeaway:

If you are cruising to remote regions — especially South America, Antarctica, or wilderness destinations — consider:



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- purchasing strong travel medical insurance,
- registering with the U.S. State Department STEP program,
- carrying extra medications,
- and monitoring CDC travel notices before departure.

Norovirus Continues to Be the Most Common Cruise Illness

Several gastrointestinal illness outbreaks made headlines this week, reinforcing that norovirus remains the cruise industry's most persistent health issue.

Caribbean Princess Outbreak

The CDC reported more than 100 passengers and crew became ill aboard the Caribbean Princess during a recent sailing. Symptoms were consistent with norovirus.

Princess Cruises reportedly implemented:

- enhanced sanitation,
- isolation protocols for symptomatic guests,
- and intensified onboard cleaning procedures.

Ambassador Cruise Line Incident in France

More than 1,700 passengers aboard the Ambition were temporarily confined while French authorities investigated a suspected norovirus outbreak near Bordeaux. The ship has since been cleared to continue sailing.

Cruise Health Tip of the Week



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Hand sanitizer is helpful — but on cruise ships, soap and water remain your best defense against norovirus.

According to CDC guidance:

- wash hands before eating,
- avoid buffet utensils if possible during outbreaks,
- and report symptoms early rather than “pushing through” illness.

Cruise lines are increasingly aggressive about isolation protocols because early containment helps prevent widespread onboard transmission.

Industry & Policy Notes

Increased Health Monitoring

Public health agencies worldwide appear to be taking a more proactive stance toward cruise-related disease surveillance following recent outbreaks. WHO, CDC, and European authorities have all issued unusually rapid updates this week.

Cruise Lines Expanding Sanitation Messaging

Several major cruise operators have also increased pre-boarding illness screening reminders and onboard hygiene announcements in recent weeks, particularly around gastrointestinal illness prevention.

Before You Sail: Quick Safety Checklist

Before your next cruise:

- Check the CDC cruise health page: [CDC Cruise Ship Travel Guidance](#)
- Review current travel notices: [CDC Travel Health Notices](#)



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- Pack oral rehydration salts and basic medications
- Carry travel insurance with medical evacuation coverage
- Stay hydrated and prioritize sleep during embarkation days

Looking Ahead

As summer cruise season ramps up, expect increased attention on:

- onboard sanitation,
- infectious disease response,
- port health screening,
- and traveler preparedness.

The overwhelming majority of cruises remain safe and uneventful — but informed travelers are better travelers.

Safe sailing,
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