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JAMSTEC

Policy on Research Cruise Operations

In the "COVID-19 Policy on cruise operations (first edition, dated May 8, 2023)", JAMSTEC has requested that all new crew members/passengers on board be vaccinated at least three times (recommendation) and comply with the boarding criteria, even after the new coronavirus infectious disease had been downgraded to Category 5 under the Infectious Disease Control Law of Japan.

Meanwhile, COVID-19 vaccination at full public expense will end on March 31, 2024 (with exceptions), and there will no longer be an obligation to make efforts to be vaccinated, nor will there be provisions recommending vaccination by local governments and other authorities. The government policy also states that "a complete shift to normal measures" will take place.

In light of these circumstances, the following revisions have been made to the policy regarding cruise operations, which, in principle applies to cruises departing on or after 1 April 2024:

1. Policy

(1) JAMSTEC will not make recommendations for COVID-19 vaccination. The exception will be for emergency cases where special measures are required in nations where port call will be made during the cruise. Vaccination costs will be borne by the crew members and/or passengers themselves. In addition, it is preferred that personnel at high risk of serious illness be vaccinated before boarding the ship.

(2) JAMSTEC will treat the various measures to COVID-19 as equivalent to those to of seasonal influenza, and shall respond in accordance with the "Crisis Management Response Manual" in principle when a crew member/passenger is recognized as having or potentially having the virus.

2. Other

JAMSTEC will revise this policy, as necessary, in the event that outbreaks of new infectious diseases affecting cruises, or new pandemics of COVID-19, occur or are declared by the relevant authorities.