Talking Points, Asilomar

Updated: March 13, 2020

How many individuals from the cruise ship have been moved to Asilomar?

As of March 13, 19 individuals from the Grand Princess cruise ship have been relocated to Asilomar. This number will fluctuate as additional individuals could be transferred to Asilomar and others will be transported to a federal military base if they test negative for novel coronavirus (COVID-19).

What is being done to mitigate potential risk among the surrounding community and public at large?

The state of California has partnered with federal and local governments to ensure that adequate protocols are in place to protect the public health and safety of residents in the communities surrounding Asilomar and California. While individuals fulfill their mandatory 14-day quarantine, they will not interact with Asilomar guests, employees or the general public. The state and federal employees and contractors working with these individuals follow comprehensive guidelines and best practices known for the care of patients who have been exposed to COVID-19 to protect themselves from exposure and prevent any potential further spread of the virus. See the CDC website for additional information about isolation and quarantines.

The state is also working closely with local agencies, including Monterey County and the City of Pacific Grove, to coordinate this mission and provide communication and information to the public.

Will Asilomar employees care for these individuals or perform other duties, such as cleaning residences or maintaining landscaping around the buildings impacted?

No. The state and federal government are leading the effort to provide general care and any necessary medical attention needed for individuals from the cruise ship. These individuals will be temporarily housed in several buildings that are secure and removed from Asilomar employees, visitors and the public. While these individuals fulfill their mandatory 14-day quarantine, they will not interact with other Asilomar guests, employees or the general public. Some employees with California State Parks will be assisting with security on the site.

The state and federal government are also following the CDC’s guidance on cleaning and disinfection:
If there is a medical emergency involving one of these individuals, who would respond?

Non-emergency medical treatment is being provided on-site by state and federal employees and contractors. However, should one of these individuals suffer a serious medical emergency, such as a heart attack, local emergency officials would be called for response.

Why was Asilomar chosen as a site for the quarantine of individuals from the Grand Princess cruise ship?

As part of its mission to disembark passengers from the Grand Princess cruise ship in Oakland, the state and federal government has launched a humanitarian effort to ensure that Americans are being housed in safe and secure sites during their mandatory 14-day federal quarantines. Passengers who do not require hospitalization but show mild symptoms of illness cannot be quarantined at military bases and are monitored by medical professionals until it is confirmed they have not contracted COVID-19. The state and federal government identified Asilomar and a hotel in San Carlos as suitable locations for individuals to receive this care. These residents have endured a lot of stress in recent days, and the state’s top priority is to protect their health – and the public health of California – until they can return to their homes.

How long will these guests be staying at Asilomar?

Individuals are required to fulfill a mandatory 14-day quarantine from the time they arrived at the hotel, either at Asilomar or a Department of Defense facility. Any person who tests positive for COVID-19 must test negative two times before they will be discharged from quarantine.

What is the status of the Grand Princess cruise ship with exposures to COVID-19?

The State of California has been working in partnership with the federal government to aid in the safe return of passengers from the Grand Princess. The entire mission is centered around protecting the health of the passengers, and ensuring that when the passengers disembark, the public health of the United States, the State of California, and partner communities is protected. The United States Department of Health and Human Services and the California Governor’s Office of Emergency Services provided the following update on the second day
of progress towards the safe return of individuals from the Grand Princess Cruise ship:

The third day of disembarkation saw a substantial increase in the pace at which individuals were able to safely and methodically disembark from the vessel. All U.S. citizen passengers have been removed from the cruise ship. The following reflects the count as of 10:00 p.m. PDT on March 12:

2,446 total individuals were disembarked from the ship on March 12, 2020 including:

• 860 individuals were transported by bus to Travis Air Force Base near Fairfield, California
• 495 individuals were transported via chartered flight to Marine Corps Air Station Miramar near San Diego, California
• 493 individuals were transported via charted flight to Dobbins Air Reserve base near Marietta, Georgia
• 149 individuals were transported via chartered flight to Lackland Air Force Base near San Antonio, Texas.