

Judge says more answers needed about relocation of COVID-19 patients

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(HealthDay)—Federal and California officials must provide more

information to local officials about plans to relocate former cruise ship passengers who have tested positive for the new coronavirus to a facility in a Southern California community, a federal judge ruled Monday.

Officials in the city of Costa Mesa oppose the transfer to their community of coronavirus patients who were evacuated from a [cruise ship](#) in Japan, the *Associated Press* reported. Mistakes can be made when acting in haste, said U.S District Judge Josephine Staton, who had already temporarily blocked [federal officials](#) from transferring passengers to the site. She scheduled another hearing next Monday to review the issue.

Passengers who were evacuated from the cruise ship are under quarantine at Travis Air Force Base in Northern California. Those who tested positive for the new coronavirus were sent to area hospitals but cannot return to Travis once they no longer need treatment, according to federal officials. However, Costa Mesa officials said they were not included in the planning process and want to know why a facility recently deemed too dilapidated for a [homeless shelter](#) is suddenly being considered to house those passengers, the *AP* reported. "There's just something not right, and we have to question that, because the information that we're being given is not credible," Costa Mesa Mayor Katrina Foley told the media after Monday's hearing.

Meanwhile, earlier today, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention warned that a coronavirus outbreak on American soil is now all but a certainty. "As more and more countries experience community spread, successful containment at our borders becomes harder and harder. Ultimately, we expect we will see community spread in this country," Nancy Messonnier, M.D., director of the CDC National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases, said during a media briefing. "It's not so much a question of if this will happen anymore, but rather more a question of exactly when this will happen and how many

people in this country will have severe illness."

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