

Another cruise ship in Norway stalled over virus case

5 August 2020, by Jan M. Olsen



The cruise ship SeaDream 1 at the quay in Bodø, Norway, Wednesday Aug. 5, 2020. The cruise ship with 123 passengers on board and a crew of 85 has docked in the Norwegian harbor of Bodø but no one can disembark after a former passenger from Denmark tested positive for the coronavirus upon returning home. (Sondre Skjelvik/NTB Scanpix via AP)

A cruise ship carrying more than 200 people docked in a Norwegian harbor Wednesday and ordered to keep everyone on board after a passenger from a previous trip tested positive for the coronavirus upon returning home to Denmark.

Bodø Mayor Ida Pinnerød told Norwegian broadcaster NRK that the SeaDream 1's 85 crew members would all be tested for the virus and that authorities were in contact with the Norwegian Institute of Public Health on whether the 123 passengers should be as well.

"We take the situation very seriously," the mayor said.

The Norway-based company that owns the ship, SeaDream Yacht Club, said the former passenger had no symptoms of COVID-19 during the earlier

voyage and had traveled home from Tromsø on Aug. 2. The person underwent a routine virus test upon arrival in Denmark and it came back positive on Tuesday.

All the other passengers from the infected individual's trip must self-quarantine for 10 days, the Norwegian Institute of Public Health said.

The ship's new journey, down the Norwegian coast started on Aug. 2 in Tromsø and stopped in Bodø, 200 kilometers (124.3 miles) to the south.

"We sincerely hope that there is no COVID-19 on board, and we are not aware of any other guests or crew who are infected or have any symptoms, but we are taking all necessary precautions," SeaDream Yacht Club said in a statement.



CEO of Hurtigruten, Daniel Skjeldam during a press conference after the announcement an outbreak of coronavirus infection aboard the expedition cruise ship MS Roald Amundsen. The Norwegian cruise ship line Hurtigruten has halted all trips and apologized for procedural errors, after 5 passengers and 36 crew members tested positive for COVID-19. In response, Norway has banned all cruise ships from docking for two weeks. (Annika Byrde / NTB scanpix via AP)



A view of the Hurtigruten's vessel MS Roald Amundsen, docked in Tromsø, Norway, Sunday, Aug. 2, 2020. Over 30 crew members and an unconfirmed number of passengers have so far tested positive for the coronavirus after two international cruises which resumed operation recently, since the outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic. (Terje Pedersen/NTB scanpix via AP)



Norwegian cruise ship MS Roald Amundsen moored in Tromsø, Norway, Monday Aug. 3, 2020. After 40 people, including four passengers and 26 crew members on the Norwegian cruise ship have been tested positive for the coronavirus, the operator says it was stopping for all cruises with its three vessels. The 40 people were admitted to the University Hospital of North Norway in Tromsø, north of the Arctic Circle, where the empty ship has docked. (Terje Pedersen/NTB Scanpix via AP)

Norwegian news agency NTB reported later Wednesday that the entire crew had tested negative. It was not immediately clear if the ship would remain under quarantine or would be permitted to disembark some or all of those on board.

Meanwhile, the number of people on another Norwegian cruise ship who have tested positive for the virus has reached 44, nine passengers and 35 crew members, the Norwegian Institute of Public Health reported late Tuesday. All nine infected passengers on the MS Roald Amundsen were registered as Norway residents.

It's not clear how that outbreak. The Hurtigruten cruise line halted all its cruise trips after the outbreak emerged and Norway on Monday closed its ports to cruise ships for two weeks. It was not immediately clear why SeaDream 1 was allowed to dock in Bodo.

Hurtigruten's ships often act like a local ferry, traveling from port to port along Norway's west coast. Some disembarking passengers may have spread the virus to local communities.

In Russia, a river cruise ship was detained in the city of Nizhny Novgorod on Saturday after nine crew members tested positive for the coronavirus. Three of them were hospitalized, and all the passengers aboard were bused home, local authorities said.

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