

For Immediate Release

Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA) Issues Statement Reiterating Its Call for the Lifting of the CDC's Conditional Sailing Order

WASHINGTON, DC, April 5, 2021 – CLIA, which represents 95% of global ocean-going cruise capacity and the largest network of travel agents and agencies specializing in cruise travel, today reiterated its call for the *Framework for Conditional Sailing Order* (CSO) to be lifted—issuing the following statement:

It is very disappointing that the additional instructions issued April 2nd by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) under the Framework for Conditional Sailing (CSO) for the cruise industry are burdensome, largely unworkable and seem to reflect a zero-risk objective rather than the mitigation approach to COVID that is the basis for every other US sector of our society. The effect of these new guidelines means that nearly half a million Americans from longshoremens, ground transportation operators, hotel, restaurant, and retail workers, travel agents, and tens of thousands of businesses that service cruise ships are continuing to financially suffer, with no reasonable timeline provided for the safe return of cruising.

The new instructions are at odds with the approach the CDC and governments in other parts of the world apply to travel and tourism segments in managing and mitigating the risk of COVID-19. On the same day CDC issued new onerous requirements for the cruise industry, five months after the original order, CDC issued relaxed guidance for domestic and international travel due to vaccination progress and recognition of the improved public health environment. With over 400,000 passengers having already sailed from Europe and part of Asia since last summer following stringent, science-based protocols that result in a far lower incident rate than on land, the irony is that today an American can fly to any number of destinations to take a cruise, but cannot board a ship in the U.S. This deprives U.S. workers from participating in the economic recovery and does not recognize the public health advances that have been made over many months including the ability to effectively mitigate risk on cruise ships. With no clear path forward or timeframe for resumption in the U.S., more sailings originating in the Caribbean and elsewhere are likely to be announced, effectively shutting American ports, closing thousands of American small businesses, and pushing an entire industry off- shore.

We share the priority of the Administration to control the virus—and commend the significant advancements made in the US that are a model for others. We also respect the authority of the CDC to implement measures in the interest of public health. Unfortunately, contrary to every other sector, the April 2 cruise requirements are so burdensome and ambiguous that no clear path forward or timetable can be discerned. CLIA urges the Administration to consider the ample evidence that supports lifting the CSO this month to allow for the planning of a controlled return to service this summer.

If anything, the announcement last Friday is a clarion call for closer cooperation and coordination among stakeholders to achieve the President's goal of reaching a 'new normal' by the Fourth of July. Working together, we can avoid the negative consequences that come when cruising, and the workers who support it, are not afforded the same opportunities as other workers working in industries with far fewer practices in place to provide for public health and well-being.

###

About the Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA)

CLIA is the world's largest cruise industry trade association, providing a unified voice and is the leading authority of the global cruise community. On behalf of its members, affiliates and partners, the organization supports policies and practices that foster a secure, healthy, and sustainable cruise ship environment, promoting positive travel experiences for the more than 30 million passengers who have cruised annually. The CLIA community includes the world's most prestigious ocean, river, and specialty cruise lines; a highly trained and certified travel agent community; and a widespread network of stakeholders, including ports & destinations, ship development, suppliers, and business services. CLIA represents 95% of the world's ocean-going cruise capacity, as well as 54,000 travel agents, and 15,000 of the largest travel agencies in the world. The organization's global headquarters are in Washington, DC, with regional offices located in North and South America, Europe, Asia, and Australasia. For more information, please visit cruising.org or follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#), and [YouTube](#) with our handle @CLIAGlobal—or on [LinkedIn](#).

Members of the media, please contact us at press@cruising.org for more information.