

### **Quark Expeditions Eases COVID-19 Measures for the Upcoming Antarctic Season**

As the global COVID-19 situation continues to improve, Quark Expeditions will be easing COVID-19 restrictions for the beginning of the coming Antarctic sailing season. Effective October 1<sup>st</sup>, **passengers will no longer be required to test for COVID-19 prior to departure or upon embarkation.** Unless required by the relevant authorities, only passengers who report symptoms of COVID-19 to the medical team during a voyage will be tested.

Onboard measures will also be relaxed. Most significantly, while passenger-facing staff and crew will continue to mask indoors, **masks will now be optional for passengers** except on certain charter flights where required by the airline. All onboard and adventure activities and spa and fitness facilities will return to normal, pre-pandemic operations.

As vaccination has been a significant driver of immunity and the reduction of disease severity, **we will still require proof of vaccination to board.** To join a Quark expedition, passengers we ask passengers to present official government proof of a primary vaccination series and an additional booster or (ii) a primary vaccination series completed more than 14 days and less than 6 months prior to boarding, or (iii) a completed primary vaccination series and certificate of recovery within 90 days prior to embarkation.

As the world has learned over the past two years, the situation with COVID-19 is ever-changing and while Quark Expeditions is committed to returning operations to normal, measures may have to change should the countries in which we operate change their regulations or in cases where extraordinary circumstances dictate.

For more details on Quark Expeditions' updated protocols, please consult the FAQ.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### **VACCINATION:**

#### **Will unvaccinated passengers be allowed on Quark expeditions?**

No - all passengers must be vaccinated before joining their expedition.

#### **What are Quark Expeditions' vaccination requirements?**

We require current COVID-19 vaccination to board. This means that on Day 1 of your program, you must present a copy of the COVID-19 proof of vaccination record from your government's health authority showing:

- A primary vaccination series with a WHO approved vaccine completed more than 14 days and less than 6 months from planned embarkation date **OR**
- A completed primary vaccination series and an additional booster dose **OR**
- A completed primary vaccination series and a Certificate of Recovery which verifies COVID-19 within the 90 days prior to embarkation.

Guests can be exempted from the booster requirement if they are medically exempt as confirmed by a letter from their doctor or otherwise ineligible for a booster. If you need an exemption, please contact your travel advisor.

We recommend that guests receive any additional boosters available to them.

#### **What vaccines will Quark Expeditions accept?**

Your COVID-19 vaccination record document must show that you have been vaccinated with a vaccine that is authorized and approved by [Centers of Disease Control \(CDC\)](#) or [World Health Organization \(WHO\)](#).

#### **Will you accept mixed vaccines?**

Mixed vaccines will be accepted if they are from the approved list and your vaccine document shows you have received all required doses.

#### **How will this policy affect your staff and crew?**

Quark Expeditions requires all staff and crew to be vaccinated to the same standard as our guests.

#### **How long will the vaccination policy be in effect?**

The vaccination policy is currently in effect for all voyages in all available seasons. As COVID-19 is a constantly evolving situation, our medical advisors will evaluate our policy on an ongoing basis and determine if and when it needs to be amended.

## **TESTING:**

### **Will Quark require that I get tested for COVID-19 prior to my departure?**

No. Quark no longer requires a pre-departure COVID-19 test. We do, however, recommend that our guests do a self-test within three days of joining an expedition to help ensure that COVID-19 does not negatively impact your voyage.

### **What documents will Quark Expeditions require me to present on Day 1 prior to embarkation?**

You must present a copy of your COVID-19 proof of vaccination record from your government's health authority. Quark no longer requires any testing documentation.

All guests will also be required to complete a Health Questionnaire upon arrival. Guests will be denied boarding if within the last 10 days they have tested positive on a viral test (antigen or PCR).

### **Will Quark test me for COVID-19 upon embarkation?**

Quark is no longer testing all passengers for COVID-19 at embarkation. A passenger may be asked to COVID test in the gateway if they declare on their health declaration that they have within the last 10 days been a close contact of a person who has confirmed COVID-19, or that they have symptoms compatible with COVID-19.

### **Will Quark Expeditions require me to undergo a test for COVID-19 at any time during the voyage?**

Quark Expeditions will not conduct routine COVID-19 testing unless required by the relevant authorities, however passengers who report symptoms of COVID-19 to the medical team during a voyage will be tested.

### **What happens if I test positive for COVID-19 during the voyage?**

Should you test positive for COVID-19, you will be required to isolate subject to local regulations.

### **If I am required to isolate:**

#### **a) Will I be compensated for days that I may end up spending in isolation?**

Yes – you will receive a pro-rated future travel refund credit (FTRC) for the number of days you spend in isolation. Please see standard terms and conditions for FTRCs rules and restrictions: [Terms and Conditions](#).

#### **b) Will my return travel plans be affected?**

If you are less than 5 days from date of diagnosis, the current rules in Ushuaia would require you to complete your isolation onshore in a hotel in Ushuaia before proceeding with your travels. If your voyage involves a charter flight, you would not be able to board the flight until your period of isolation is complete.

While the Quark Expeditions team will assist you, the cost of your hotel, meals and return flight would be your responsibility. Quark will update you on any voyage-specific protocols in your final documents package. We highly advise that you purchase travel insurance with COVID protection.

#### **c) Can I rejoin the ships activities after my isolation is complete?**

Yes.

**If I don't have COVID-19 but my cabin-mate tests positive for COVID-19, will I be required to quarantine?**

No. You will be allowed to continue to participate in all excursions and programming.

## **INSURANCE**

**What type of travel insurance should I purchase?**

Please ensure you purchase a travel insurance policy that includes coverage for COVID-19 related health issues, quarantines, and trip cancellation and interruption. Such coverage can be purchased through Quark Expeditions' insurance partner: [Trip Mate](#)

Purchasing comparable coverage through another insurance provider or your preferred booking agent is also acceptable.

**What happens if I can't travel due to a COVID-19 reason?**

If you have to cancel your trip within 29 to 1 day of the voyage due to a COVID-19 reason, Quark Expeditions' Protection Promise will provide for a 100% Future Travel Refund Credit (FTRC) that can be used within 1 year to rebook onto another Quark Expeditions voyage. Please see the [Protection Promise](#) page for details.

## **ONBOARD EXPERIENCE**

**Will passengers be required to wear face masks?**

Face masks will be available onboard if guests wish to use them, however they are now optional except for during Argentinian charter flights which currently still require all passengers to wear face masks. The Captain or Expedition Leader may recommend face masks if COVID cases on a particular voyage are extraordinarily high.

**What measures are in place with staff and crew to protect against COVID-19?**

All staff and crew are:

- required to be fully vaccinated and boosted to the same standard as our guests.
- provided with appropriate PPE and required to wear masks in indoor public spaces.
- trained on COVID-19 prevention and sanitation.

**What other preventive measures are in place to protect against COVID-19?**

- Hand sanitisation and hand wash stations will be available throughout the ship.
- Guests, staff and crew will be encouraged to maintain good respiratory etiquette.
- When possible, onboard programming will be designed to facilitate social distancing (for instance lectures may be streamed to cabins and separate spaces).
- Enhanced cleaning will be carried out in all public areas and cabins.

**Will all onboard activities be back to normal?**

All onboard programming will be back to normal with all fitness and spa facilities also returning to

normal operations. At the beginning of the season to ensure operational continuity, the expedition team will continue to eat separately from passengers – this will involve the closure of Bistro 487 on *Ultramarine*, but there will be no other dining restrictions.

### **OTHER RESTRICTIONS**

Please keep in mind that Quark's measures may have to change should the countries in which we operate change their regulations or in cases where extraordinary circumstances dictate. Also, note that border and immigration authorities in each of our gateway countries have their own entry requirements that may change from time-to-time and that you are responsible to meet.