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Cruise Ships Return to Barbados Beginning Today With Arrival of Celebrity Cruises

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Celebrity Millennium Cruise Ship, operated by Celebrity Cruises.

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados, CMC, – Barbados is preparing to welcome back cruise ships to its shores from Monday, with all passengers on board being fully vaccinated against Covid-19. This was disclosed by Barbados Tourism Minister Lisa Cummins on Saturday.

“We are preparing... to welcome back for the first time in over 15 months cruise ships to Barbados,” she said. “We have the Celebrity Millennium that will be making a transit call on Barbados on Monday. She will arrive in Barbados at approximately 11 (local time) in the morning.”

“It has been over a year of discussions, negotiations, and engagement at the level of the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the European Union (EU) healthy sail guidelines, working through the Americas Crews Task Force, ...chaired by the President and CEO of Royal Caribbean, Michael Bailey, and Prime Minister Mia Mottley of Barbados,” she added.

Cummins pointed out that a number of protocols are in place and that all passengers are required to have a valid negative PCR test three days prior to arrival.

“There is testing that is going to be taking place on board the ships that will make sure that people are continually kept safe, but there are multiple different scenarios, and we want to spend some time just talking you through what that looks like. So, everybody’s comfortable that we have been robust and rigorous in the assessment of what the parameters need to be, what the risk is going to be, what risks are going to be posed, and what measures need to be put in place,” she stated.

The tourism minister also outlined plans that have been put in place to receive cruise ships and passengers.

“There are at least three different types of parameters that we needed to consider for cruising People are going to be flying in; they’re going to have to meet the requirements first for boarding an aircraft, which would be a negative PCR test before they land in Barbados, and they’re taken via sterile corridor directly to the port, where they then have to be subjected to further screening in order to embark on the ship, which is homeported here in Barbados,” she said.

She further stated that bubble tours will be made available for passengers. “What that means is that we’re restricting what types of activity can be undertaken at this stage because despite our best efforts, and despite the level of rigor that we have put into developing these protocols, this is still the first ship. We need to take small, confident but careful steps.”