



**NATIONAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ORGANISATION (NEMO)  
MINISTRY OF NATIONAL SECURITY  
ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES  
WEST INDIES**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 25, 2020

Contact: Chief Medical Officer, Chair Health Subcommittee  
Kingstown, St. Vincent and the Grenadines

**Three hundred and fifty-six (356) Vincentians to be repatriated on Vision of the Seas**

St. Vincent and the Grenadines will welcome home three hundred and fifty-six (356) Vincentian Crew members from the Royal Caribbean Cruise Line tomorrow, Tuesday May 26, 2020. The Vision of the Seas is expected to arrive in Vincentian waters at around four in the morning, with the sailors on board.

All three hundred and fifty-six of them will be screened for COVID-19, using rapid and PCR tests. Due to the time required to process this number of tests, it is anticipated that the Vincentian crew members may not complete disembarking the ship before Thursday May 28, 2020.

Crew members found to be positive for COVID – 19 will be placed in a government approved isolation facility until they have recovered as evidenced by two consecutive negative PCR COVID-19 tests. Crew members who are negative for COVID-19 will be allowed to quarantine in their private homes for the required 14-day period.

This enhanced repatriation protocol is aimed at minimizing the risk of importation of new COVID-19 cases into St. Vincent and the Grenadines posed by this

particular group of Vincentians. The increased risk was determined in view of reports of the presence of known cases of COVID-19 on the ships of origin of some of the crew members and more recent reports of crew members testing positive for COVID-19 on disembarking this particular ship.

The COVID-19 Task Force/Health Services Sub-committee is committed to reducing the risk of new importation and subsequent exposure of the Vincentian public to COVID-19. Every effort is being made and existing protocols will be continuously reviewed, to ensure that COVID-19 remains contained in St Vincent and the Grenadines.

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