



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**CITY AND COUNTY AGENCIES  
ADDRESS CORONAVIRUS CONCERNS  
Cruise ship visitors following CDC protocol**

Monterey, CA. – With guidance from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the California Department of Public Health, the Monterey County Health Department is the lead agency locally providing protocols for addressing any potential local cases of coronavirus. Together, the County, local cities, and hospitals are coordinating efforts to contain the potential spread of the virus and to share accurate information to the community.

Currently, no restrictions are in place for transportation within the United States. Airports, bus and train stations, and maritime vessels including cruise ships, are following reporting and monitoring guidelines established by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and other federal agencies such as the U.S. Coast Guard. The cruise ship, *Amadea*, arrives for the day in Monterey tomorrow, March 3, from San Francisco, on the way to Santa Barbara. The ship's prior itinerary included stops in Brazil, Argentina, Chile, Mexico, and other ports in Central and South America— no travel in the recent past were in any high-risk for coronavirus destinations.

"We take the current health scare very seriously," said City Manager Hans Uslar. "We are taking proactive and appropriate steps with guidance from the CDC and Coast Guard to assess cruise ship visits during the current COVID-19 outbreak. *Amadea* passengers and crew currently meet the criteria by the CDC for travel."

(more)

NEWS RELEASE

The City is creating an internal task force to remain vigilant and keep staff and the public informed about local impacts on a regular basis until the virus is contained.

The County of Monterey's Health Department continues to take a proactive approach to preplanning and a response for COVID-19. "The CDC has not implemented travel restrictions on bus and train stations or maritime vessels such as cruise ships entering U.S. ports at this time," states Dr. Edward Moreno, the County's Director of Public Health. The only travel advisories in place at this time are for travelers to avoid nonessential travel to Italy, South Korea, Iran, and China, as well as suggesting that travelers reconsider cruise ship voyages to or within Asia. Dr. Moreno adds, "The best thing we can do right now is to continue effective handwashing, cover your coughs and sneezes, and stay home if you are sick."

The City of Monterey has set up a web page with facts sheets and links from the County of Monterey and the CDC on COVID-19 prevention and response at [www.monterey.org/coronavirus](http://www.monterey.org/coronavirus)

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