

Covid-19 Protection Policy on board the Research Vessel HEINCKE

As of: 25.09.2023

The topic of Corona has largely disappeared from the news coverage and public awareness. The virus, however, has not. The pandemic has become endemic, and the currently prevailing strain usually shows a milder course, the number of vaccinated and recovered people is relatively high, but people still fall ill with the SARS-CoV-2 virus.

Therefore, until further notice, the following regulations apply to AWI expeditions (including ship and air expeditions):

- A reduction of the scientific crew to 11 persons is no longer necessary. Also on longer expeditions a full occupancy with a maximum of 12 persons is again possible.
- Vaccination against SARS-CoV-2 is no longer obligatory but is strongly recommended according to the guidelines of the Robert Koch Institute. For this reason, we continue to inform passengers and our contractors (shipping company, flight services, etc.) in writing that vaccination/booster is recommended.
- Before starting the expedition, a rapid antigen test must be performed independently and on a trust basis. The rapid tests are provided on board for this purpose. The aim of the measure is to avert possible illness-related disadvantages for others and the entire expedition with little effort. This is through measures that can be taken in the event of a positive test.
- Persons who test positive before departure must consult with the cruise/expedition management or the ship's management (crew). The risk, reasonableness, and necessity of the participation must be checked and coordinated individually between expedition/ship management.
- Positively tested persons can, in principle, participate in expeditions, provided that the official regulations (also in the destination area of the expedition, requirements of the transport companies, etc.) do not conflict with this and the health protection of the others remains guaranteed. This is done by consistently wearing an FFP2 mask, applying the AHA-L rules, and, if necessary, separating from the group.
- Under the above precautions, persons who test positive and are symptom-free may also work.
- As with other acute respiratory diseases, the following recommendation also applies to an infection with the SARSCoV-2 coronavirus: Anyone who is ill must take care not to infect others. In this case, the spread of the disease must also be prevented by wearing a mask when in contact with third parties, AHA-L rules, and separation. Symptomatically ill persons are also not allowed to work, regardless of the cause of the disease.
- However, work can be resumed in principle 48 hours after the end of corona-related symptoms.

In case you have any questions, the ships coordination of the AWI will be happy to help you.