Public Health Responds to Norovirus on Cruise Ship

Takashi Wada, MD, MPH, Director and Deputy Health Officer for the Public Health Department, made a personal visit on board the Princess Crown Princess ship this morning where he found all proper steps were being taken to support the health and safety of passengers and the public in Santa Barbara.

The Public Health Department was contacted regarding a number of cases of gastrointestinal illness among passengers. Dr. Wada communicated with the Centers for Disease Control, the Public Health Manager for Princess Cruises, and the Harbor Operations Manager for the city of Santa Barbara to assess the situation. He boarded the ship upon its arrival in Santa Barbara and spoke with the medical officer on the ship. Dr. Wada found all to be cooperative with a common goal of supporting the safety and health of passengers and the public.

Dr. Wada found that the Princess Cruises is taking all of the necessary precautions and were taking proactive steps with all passengers and crew. Heightened sanitation protocols have been instituted and the ill have been isolated in their cabins. Dr. Wada supported the decision to allow healthy passengers to disembark in Santa Barbara.

The Public Health Department wants all of those visiting Santa Barbara today to have a happy vacation. We wish those who are ill to have a speedy recovery.

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