**District Conference Cruise Q&A**

For those of you who are considering joining us for our Cruise this May here is some information you might find helpful. If you have additional questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact Alpha Travel at alphatravel@optimum.net or 631-369-1110.

Royal Caribbean follows CDC guidelines. In this ever-changing environment things will continue to evolve. For the most up-to-date information go to: <https://www.royalcaribbean.com/the-healthy-sail-center/getting-ready-to-cruise>.

**If you register by Monday, November 15th you will receive a $50 on-board credit.**

**Registration** - When you register, you are required to make a down payment of $250 per person. This fee is 100% refundable until Feb. 14th. Full payment for the conference is due on that date. You can pay in full when you register, you may have payments spread over a couple of months or you can pay at the last minute. Those arrangements will be made between you and the travel agency when you book the cruise.

**Credit** – if you have a credit with the Cruise line, please let Alpha Travel know and they can assist you in applying for this voyage.

**Facebook Page** – after you register you will be invited to join the Facebook page so you can stay on top of what’s going on and be able to ask any questions you may have.

**Passport** – is recommended but not required. Why would you want to have your passport with you? In the event of an emergency if you need to leave the ship and fly home you will need your passport to return to the United States. Your passport should also be valid for 6 months past the cruise date.

**Covid Vaccination** – at this time, all people above the age 12 who are travelling must be vaccinated and produce a negative covid test that was taken 2 days prior to travel. This policy is in effect through mid-January but could change. All ship personnel are fully vaccinated and wear masks.

**Testing positive while on board** – if a passenger tests positive while on board the ship they are confined to their quarters and then removed from the ship and flown home (one reason to have your passport).

**Ship Capacity** – they are not sailing at full capacity currently. Our travel agent just returned from a cruise and the ship held 6,000 but the maximum capacity for that sailing was 2,600.

**Travel Insurance** – is available and our agent recommends not purchasing until February as the cost will be lower and until Feb 14th the trip is 100% refundable. After Feb 14th refunds would be given at 75% for 89-75 days prior to sailing, 50% for 74-61 days; 25% for 60-31 days and 30 or less days from sailing there would be no refund. Prices for travel insurance will vary depending on your age. If the cruise line cancels the trip, you will receive 100% refund.

**What the difference between an Upgraded Balcony and regular Balcony?** The location on the ship. The upgraded balconies are in the center of the ship. Both are the same size, it’s just location.

**Cleaning** – the ship staff is constantly cleaning and there is special overnight cleaning that happens while you are sleeping.

**Meals** – there are buffets, but it is served by the staff only. We will be at the early dinner seating and have an area just for us. There won’t be assigned tables so you can sit with different people each night if you would like.

**Specialty Restaurants** – There are several restaurants that you may also dine at, but they are not included in the cost of the cruise. It is recommended if you would like to dine at one of the restaurants you make the reservation prior to sailing. Restaurants are Chops, Giovanni’s Table, Izumi, and Chef’s Table. Also not included in your meal package are Johnny Rockets, Ben & Jerry’s, and Starbucks. If you have the Starbucks app it is accepted on board.

**Room locations** – our rooms are disbursed across the ship. If you have special needs or requirements to be closer to an elevator or handicapped rooms, please let the travel agent know. If you would like to purchase a larger room you may just let Alpha Travel know.

**Drink Packages** – prices fluctuate so once you register, you’ll want to watch pricing. There is a rumor that on Black Friday they have the cheapest prices, but again it’s a rumor so don’t hold us to that.

**Internet cost** – there is a fee but worth the money to have access to your email. The access is based on a single person using, but if you are a couple, you can share access you just can’t both use the password at the same time. This is an okay practice from the cruise line.

**Excursions** – the cruise line is just starting to put together trips and costs and once they are finalized, we will share. This is an additional cost.

**Safety Drill** – at this time it is being done electronically on your cell phone ,tablet. Or in your stateroom on the TV. You will need to check in at your station prior to sailing.

**Preparation Meeting** – we will hold a meeting for everyone attending the Conference prior to departure to make sure everyone is set, and all questions are answered about the trip.