

# How to watch NASA and Russia launch a new crew to the ISS on Thursday

One NASA astronaut and two Russian cosmonauts are heading to the space station after spending their preflight days in quarantine.

Three people will escape Earth's gravity on April 9. On Thursday, NASA astronaut Chris Cassidy and Russian cosmonauts Anatoly Ivanishin and Ivan Vagner of Roscomos are scheduled to fly from Kazakhstan to the International Space Station.

NASA TV will stream live coverage of the launch starting at 12 a.m. PT on Thursday, with the actual launch time of the Soyuz spacecraft set for 1:05 a.m. PT.



NASA TV will also broadcast the ISS docking procedure starting at 6:30 a.m. PT and the hatch opening at 9 a.m. PT.

It is standard procedure to quarantine ISS travelers for two weeks prior to launch. This is even more critical considering the global COVID-19 pandemic. "This process ensures that they aren't sick or incubating an illness when they get to the space station and is called 'health stabilization,'" NASA said in a March statement on how it's handling coronavirus precautions.

Cassidy was able to spend time with his wife in Kazakhstan last month before going into more strict isolation. "I really haven't been around anybody else, so it'd be really, really strange if I did contract something," Cassidy told CNET sister site CBS News in late March.

Cassidy and his colleagues will join three current crew members on the ISS. The incumbent station residents (Roscosmos's Oleg Skripochka and NASA's Jessica Meir and Andrew Morgan) are set to return to Earth on April 17.

That will once again leave the ISS with a crew of three until NASA and SpaceX launch a crewed test flight of the Dragon capsule as early as mid-May. This will be the first time astronauts have flown from US soil since 2011.

Until then, it's business as usual with the Russian Soyuz launch on Thursday.

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