

California State University Ocean Studies Institute Diving Safety Program

COVID19 Contingency Planning Guide for Dive Locker Use

PURPOSE: This guide provides prevention and mitigation procedures for the **Diving Safety**, program essential/critical operations and designated essential and operations critical employees during the COVID-19 pandemic. This guide is not meant for normal field activities and should only be used in support of fieldwork with the designation of program essential/critical operations and after all CSU/OSI mitigation strategies have been exhausted. **The designation of program essential/critical fieldwork and employees is determined by the appropriate CSU Administrative staff.** All program essential/critical employees assigned field work will be referred to as “team members” in this guide. This guide draws on information provided by the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\) COVID-19 website](#), [Department of the Interior \(DOI\) COVID-19 website](#), the [USGS COVID-19 Managers & Supervisors Portal](#) and other sources to assist CSU/OSI Administrators, Faculty, Staff and team members in developing and implementing a contingency plan to protect the workforce while ensuring continuity of program essential/critical operations during the ongoing outbreak of the respiratory disease “Coronavirus Disease 2019,” or COVID-19.

MITIGATION STRATEGIES FOR DIVE LOCKER USE

- **To describe a generic mitigation protocol for dive locker use required for field operations during COVID-19 to include the following:**
 - Dive Locker use
 - Cleaning and Storage of Scuba Gear
 - Compressor and Fill Station Operation

COMMON PRACTICES:

- Maintain social distancing of at least 6 feet if possible
- Keep from touching face (specifically: eyes, mouth and nose)
- Wash hands with soap and water frequently for at least 20 seconds
- Use hand sanitizer (>60% alcohol) when soap and water are not available
- Cover coughs and sneezes; cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze or use the inside of your elbow. Throw used tissues in the trash and immediately wash your hands.
- If cough develops, wear a surgical mask to prevent spread via saliva droplets – Person experiencing persistent coughing should be sent home and isolated from other workers until recovered. Testing is recommended.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces.
- If cough develops, wear a surgical mask to prevent spread via saliva droplets
- Use sanitizing wipes before touching, commonly touched surfaces (door handles, gas pumps, equipment, coolers, etc.)
- Follow CDC guidance to [Prevent Getting Sick](#)
- Refer to Campus advisories for guidance on COVID-19 related PPE requirements and regulations

FACILITIES:

- **Waterfront Offices and Restrooms:**
 - Social distancing of 6’ shall be practiced as much as possible.
 - Ample hand washing and hand sanitizing shall be practiced on a frequent basis, especially when using commonly touched objects, light switches, doorknobs/push bars, etc.

DIVE LOCKER:

- **General guidelines:**
 - First and foremost, follow local protocols for social distancing and allowed business operations.
 - Prior to use of the dive locker team members are required to complete the CSU Covid-19 questionnaire at <https://forms.gle/EwGwj8gwFnyhfRmD9>
 - Social distancing of 6' shall be practiced as much as possible.
 - Ample hand washing and hand sanitizing shall be practiced on a frequent basis, especially when using commonly touched objects, light switches, doorknobs/push bars, etc.
 - Team members must wear a face covering continually, use hand sanitizer or wear nonlatex gloves.
 - It is generally recommended that personal dive gear not be stored in the dive locker during COVID-19.

CLEANING SCUBA GEAR:

- **General guidelines:**
 - All scuba gear must be cleaned and disinfected outside the dive locker in the open air. Rolling rinse bins and rolling racks are provided for this purpose.
 - Soaking scuba equipment in soapy water alone is not an effective disinfection method. Refer to the [EPA "N" list](#) for a compilation of products that work against SARS-CoV-2. Steramine is on the list and commonly used for this purpose.
 - Refer to DAN's ["Quick Guide to Properly Disinfecting Dive Gear"](#).
- **Wetsuits:**
 - Soak wetsuits in rinse bins provided using exterior faucets and hoses.
 - Hang wetsuits on rolling racks provided and allow to drip-dry before moving to the dive locker for storage.
- **Regulators and Gauges:**
 - Clean and disinfect per manufacturer recommendations in rinse bins provided using exterior faucets and hoses.
 - Hang regulators and gauges on rolling racks provided and allow to drip-dry before moving to the dive locker for storage.
- **Mask, Fins, Snorkels, Weights, and Miscellaneous Equipment:**
 - Clean and disinfect per manufacturer recommendations in rinse bins provided using exterior faucets and hoses.
 - Hang on rolling racks or in milk crates provided and allow to drip-dry before moving to the dive locker for storage.
- **Scuba Cylinders:**
 - Soak in rinse bins provided using exterior faucets and hoses or spray/wipe/rinse using approved disinfectant.
 - Allow to drip-dry before moving to the dive locker for fill and/or storage.

FILL STATION OPERATIONS:

- **General guidelines:**
 - Only authorized personnel will operate the compressors and fill station.
 - Ample hand washing and hand sanitizing shall be practiced on a frequent basis, especially when using commonly touched objects, knobs, dials, switches, push bars, etc.
 - Clean and disinfect all common surfaces before and after use of the compressors and fill station.
- **Compressors:**
 - Follow all standard safety and operating procedures.
 - In order to properly maintain social distancing, only one person at a time will be allowed in the compressor room.

- Clean and disinfect all common surfaces before and after use.
- **Fill Station:**
 - Follow all standard safety and operating procedures.
 - In order to properly maintain social distancing, only one person at a time will be allowed in the dive locker during fill station operations.
 - Clean and disinfect all common surfaces before and after use.
 - Avoid touching tank valve orifice and surrounding surface to in order to minimize contact transfer.
 - Avoid touching fill whip valve orifice and surrounding surface to in order to minimize contact transfer.
 - When using gas analyzers avoid touching valve orifices and surrounding surfaces to in order to minimize contact transfer.