

# California State University Ocean Studies Institute

## Diving Safety Program

### COVID19 Contingency Planning Guide

#### Small Boat Operations

**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 SMALL BOAT OPERATIONS

- **To describe a generic mitigation protocol to use when conducting small boat operations during COVID-19 to include the following:**
  - Facilities
  - Pre Departure
  - On Water Operations
  - Diving
  - Post Operations

#### **COMMON PRACTICES:**

- Maintain social distancing of at least 6 feet if possible
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- 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, Restrooms and Wharf:**
  - Prior to arrival, boat operator and crew are required to complete the Covid-19 questionnaire at: <https://forms.gle/EwGwj8gwFnyhfRmD9>
  - Social distancing of 6’ shall be practiced as much as possible.
  - Face coverings must be worn at all times.

- 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.

#### **PRE DEPARTURE:**

- **General guidelines:**
  - First and foremost, follow local protocols for social distancing and allowed business operations.
  - Reschedule people who were exposed to an ill person or who are themselves exhibiting symptoms for participation after recovery or required isolation times.
  - Operator and crew are required to wear a face covering whenever possible, use hand sanitizer or wear nonlatex gloves.
  - Upon reaching the dock, while wearing gloves, spray and wipe disinfectant solution in spray bottles to spray all vessel hand rails, helm, tiller arms, shifters, throttles, and navigation systems with disinfectant. Let solution sit for 1 min before wiping off with clean paper towels. Wear safety glasses when applying disinfectant.
  - Place dirty paper towels or used gloves in a ziplock bag for proper disposal.
  - Disinfect and sanitize equipment. Refer to the [UCSG guidelines on Cleaning and Storing your PFD.](#)

#### **ON - WATER OPERATIONS:**

- **General guidelines:**
  - Operator and crew are required to wear a face covering whenever possible, use hand sanitizer or wear nonlatex gloves.
  - No more than 2 persons will be allowed on small boats less than 21' LOA.
  - Social distancing of 6' shall be practiced as much as possible.
- **Dive Operations:**
  - Divers on the deck must always maintain physical distancing between dives.
  - All dive gear (regulators, masks) must be covered or stored in sealed containers between dives to reduce contamination.
  - When not wearing a dive mask, divers must wear face masks and maintain physical distance when prepping for and completing a dive.

#### **POST OPERATION:**

- **General guidelines:**
  - Upon reaching the dock, while wearing gloves, spray and wipe disinfectant solution in spray bottles to spray all vessel hand rails, helm, tiller arms, shifters, throttles, and navigation systems with disinfectant. Let solution sit for 1 min before wiping off with clean paper towels. Wear safety glasses when applying disinfectant.
  - Place dirty paper towels or used gloves in a ziplock bag for proper disposal.
  - Disinfect and sanitize equipment. Refer to the [UCSG guidelines on Cleaning and Storing your PFD.](#)