

TSAC boat diving guidance during COVID19

See also: [BSAC Guidance on Covid 19](#); and [TSAC Reducing Risk during Covid-19, some practical steps](#)

A minimum of 2 and a maximum of 4 divers with a dedicated boat handler for each wave.

Divers

Before diving from the club boats please ensure that you have:

- a **'D' ring attached to your weight belt**, so that you can clip it and your BCD onto the boat's carabiners. Once back on your boat you will then recover your own kit.
- at least **2 cloth masks**, in a dry pouch to maintain their effectiveness.
- a **bag** to contain all your gear on the boat. **Only essential drink/snack bars to be brought on the boat.**
- a **wetting agent for your mask** (Defog/potato slice/ baby shampoo) - spit will not be acceptable.
- all **zips well waxed** to make it easy for your buddy to do them up swiftly.
- your own **alcohol hand sanitiser** to use before loading your dive gear on the boat.

On the club boats:

- **wear a cloth mask while preparing your kit and loading it on/off the boat.**
- before loading your kit onto the boat, put your **regulator and octopus in the pockets of your BCD** to protect them from any contamination; to test the alternate purge it.
- **Store your weight belt and bag in the stern if you are first to dive**, or with your cylinder. These will be handled by you alone, unless you ask for help.

Dive Manager and Cox

- **Wear cloth masks** at the boatshed.
- **Use hand sanitiser / gloves** before doing the normal boat preparations for towing.
- **Shogun driver use hand sanitiser / gloves**, before entering the vehicle.
- At launch site **those preparing the boat for launch** wear cloth masks and sanitise hands between handling each piece of equipment
- In addition to **AED and O2**, **ensure there is a 2L bottle of water**, in case of a DCI.
- The dive managers' evaluation of the sea state and the distance planned to travel, may lead to adjustments of the guidelines to maximize safety

Launching the boat: try to minimise the number of people handling the boat

- **Divers wearing cloth masks, hold the boat** while Cox / Dive Manager park and change.
- **Divers** hand their kit to the diver onboard, who uses hand sanitiser before and after handling each set of kit. Sanitiser bottles are attached to the racks. Bring only what you need, including **a clean cloth face mask for the return journey.**
- **Do not touch** the engine, the console area or boat controls.
- Put your **keys** in a zip lock plastic bag and give it to the Cox; do not touch the seat.

On the Boat

- **Sun glasses or other eye covering** is recommended for transit. To be stored in your kit bag, not under the seat.
- **Cox will wear a cloth face mask and eye covering** and clean your area as needed.
- **Divers will wear cloth face mask and eye covering** and face the bow while under way.
- **Divers to sit in the space allocated** maximising distancing.
- **Deploying and retrieving the shot** will require careful organisation to avoid cross contamination and to ensure that those involved face away from each other. A lifting bag should also be used on the shot, to make retrieval easier.

Preparing to dive

- **Each diver prepares their own kit**, remembering to turn on their air.
- For buddy check **do not breathe from your octopus**, in case it is needed by your buddy
- If a diver asks for **help kitting up, use hand sanitiser before and after** touching their kit

On the surface

- Apply **social distancing on the surface** by keeping 2 metres from each other.

Returning to the boat

- **Swim away from cliffs or rocks** as boarding the boat will take more time, and the boat may drift into danger.
- Each diver, one each side **uses the ropes with carabiners to attach their weight belt and BCD.**
- **Keep your regulator in** as long as possible
- **Keep your mask on** while boarding the boat.
- **The ladder will be deployed** for every diver to board, one at a time.
- **Take fins off in the water, climb the ladder.** Put a cloth face mask on **and retrieve your own weight belt and BCD** and store securely before sitting in allocated space.
- If a diver asks **for help with their kit, use sanitiser** before and after touching it.
- **Second diver** then completes the process.

On return to launch site/ preparation for second wave

- **Cox sanitises** the console, inside screen, steering wheel and controls.

On return to the boatshed: try to minimise the number of people handling the boat

- Wear a **mask and eye covering when washing down the boats.**
- **Wipe down the Shogun** with disinfectant wipes
- **Wipe down the compressor** and boat shed handles/ switches with disinfectant wipes

At home

- **Wash and Disinfect your own kit** (e.g. with [Milton sterilising tablets](#)), especially masks, snorkels, regulators and BCDs, which will then need rinsing in fresh water. Other kit e.g. wetsuits can be left to dry if not needed for 3 or more days.

The guidelines will be under review- feedback to the Branch Committee will help us address any issues.

