

TSAC boat diving guidance during COVID19

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

Key Points

A maximum of 6 people in a boat at any time. Conditions may reduce this.

Always wear cloth face covering when not diving preferably with eye protection, mask and regulator to be used when ready to dive or diving.

Put on a fresh dry cloth face covering as soon as possible after a dive.

Ideally you will be the only person handling your equipment but do not struggle or move around the boat unnecessarily to do this.

If you are going to touch someone else's kit, disinfect your hands before and afterwards.

In exceptional circumstances the DO or Dive Manager may ask divers to carry out a Lateral Flow Covid-19 test before carrying out activities that have an additional risk of Covid-19 transmission, for instance rescue drills.

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.
- **sun glasses** or other eye covering (preferred)
- a **bag** to contain all your gear on the boat and **essential drink/snack bars** on the boat.
- a **wetting agent for your mask** (Defog/potato slice/ baby shampoo) – not spit
- 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.**
- **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.

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

- **divers wearing cloth masks, hold the boat** while Driver parks and changes
- divers get their own kit onboard if they can, **if handling others' kit, use hand sanitiser before and after handling each set of kit.** Sanitiser bottles are attached to the racks

On the Boat

- **only the Cox to touch** the engine, the console area and boat controls
- **everyone to wear a cloth face covering**, preferably eye protection and maximise distancing
- **only change cox** when sea conditions and diving activities enable safe and thorough cleaning of their area
- **cox to clean** their area as needed, in particular when changing cox
- **deploying and retrieving the shot** will require careful organisation to avoid cross contamination and to ensure that those involved face away from each other
- to maintain distances and boat trim, **it may be necessary for two people to travel to and from dive site in the bow** ahead of the console

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

Returning to the boat

- if you are last on the shot please attach a partially inflated lifting bag to it before surfacing
- separate for pickup each side of the boat.
- if you cannot board easily without the ladder, position yourself on the port side
- **attach you weight belt, cylinder or rebreather to the ropes with carabiners** that should be hanging over the side of the boat ready for you
- keep your regulator in as long as possible
- keep your mask on while boarding the boat
- put on a fresh cloth face covering before retrieving your kit and storing kit securely
- remember use sanitiser before handling someone else's kit, and use again afterwards

On return to launch site/ preparation for second wave/ changing cox

- **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 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

- **disinfection of masks, snorkels, regulators and BCDs** is recommended before rinsing in fresh water, if diving again in less than 3 days (e.g. with Milton sterilising tablets)

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