



Oregon State University Scientific Boating Program COVID-19 Operating Procedures

Summary:

Operating small craft for research or educational purposes involves certain risks (including the risk of COVID-19 exposure) that must be formally mitigated. All small boats (motorized or non-motorized) operated under OSU auspices must meet OSU standards and policies including the COVID-19 mitigation strategies listed below.

If the vessel being used is an OSU research vessel (*Oceanus*, *Elakha*, *Pac Storm*) or a chartered vessel operated by a Professional Mariner, PI's should consult with OSU Ship Operations (contact Anthony Koppers at anthony.koppers@oregonstate.edu).

Approval Process

An approved [OSU Boating Work Plan](#) (incorporating COVID-19 mitigation) is required per OSU Small Boat Program requirements. Projects involving small boats will also require a [Research Resumption Plan](#) approved at the appropriate College or Unit level.

Small Vessel COVID-19 Protocols

This small boat COVID-19 protocol is meant to be a guiding document for vessel Operators to follow while implementing unit-specific needs. It details the minimum criteria needed for the mitigation of COVID-19 exposure while conducting work aboard small boats in accordance with national scientific boating guidelines (SBSA, ACA) and with OSU's University Resumption Plan. Operators, crew/staff, and supervisors should implement procedures specific to their boating project and vessels. The vessel Operator shall have responsibility for ensuring implementation of the COVID-19 protocols for the project.

Vessel Operations:

- Vessels shall be crewed with the bare minimum number of staff required for operations while maintaining standard safety procedures. If safe project operations cannot be conducted with minimum crew, the proposed boating work should be modified or postponed.
- The primary Operator should be the only staff operating the boat whenever possible (to avoid cross contamination of helm, engine, and navigational controls).
- Secondary staff should be competent in all vessel operation duties.
- Pre-arrange all boat fueling to minimize persons involved. Check with local marina/fuel dock operations.



Personal Screening

- All participants should complete the OSU Diving and Boating COVID-19 Self Check with no positive responses. Participants failing any of the screening criteria should contact the OSU Boating Safety Officer (BSO) and project PI prior to reporting to the work location
- Any team member showing any signs of sickness within the last 72 hours shall not participate.
- Any team member that has been knowingly exposed or is exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 shall not participate in any operation and should follow OSU and CDC guidelines.
- Teams must be kept to a minimum of personnel needed to safely accomplish the work.

Testing and Tracing

- Supervisors/PI's should establish a project protocol for notification of presumptive or confirmed positive COVID-19 cases.
- Any participant that falls ill within 14 days of participating in a vessel operation shall contact the BSO and PI immediately.

Enhanced Cleaning

- Boats should be supplied with disinfecting cleaning supplies.
- Operators will be responsible for oversight/delegation of disinfection of crew and workspaces as appropriate
- Participants are responsible for cleaning of personal PPE.
- Conduct routine cleaning of frequently touched surfaces and objects (e.g., tables, doorknobs, light switches, handles, desks, toilets, faucets, sinks, electronics) with cleaners/disinfectants appropriate for the surface and following the instructions on the cleaning product's label.
- Care should be taken when using cleaning sprays and wipes in, on, or around electronic equipment. Follow manufacturers cleaning instructions for integrated electronic equipment.
- PFDs should be hand-washed and rinsed with soap and water, and dried thoroughly following the guidelines detailed [here](#).
- A vessel hand washing station should be established whenever possible. Examples: bucket for water and soap, deck hose, sink.

A list of products EPA-approved for use against the coronavirus can be found [here](#).

Physical Distancing

- No shared food, drink or common water coolers.
- Minimize time in shared, enclosed crew spaces.
- Distances of 6 feet among participants should be maintained to the greatest degree safety permits
- In windy/moist environments on a boat or dockside, downwind positions may require greater attention and distancing.



Physical Distancing (cont.)

- Any vessel used in a team operation needs to be large enough to allow for a minimum of 6 feet of distance between individuals.
- Briefings should be concise, maintaining at least 6 feet of interpersonal distance between individuals.
- When possible, only the Operator should handle the vessel controls, electronics, switches and console surfaces. Sanitizing should be done to these areas if another individual must take over.
- Participant travel should be made in accordance with the most recent OSU COVID-19 essential travel guidelines

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and Face Coverings

- Each person should carry adequate face coverings and other necessary PPE. Fabric face coverings are ineffective when wet, so options such as face shields or spare face coverings should be considered
- Face coverings worn when within the cabin or when within 6ft. of other boat crew or staff
- No crew sharing of PPE.
- Appropriate PPE, addressed in the Boating Work Plan, must be employed when more than a single individual is present on a vessel at any point during the operation. Examples include disposable gloves and face coverings. Eye protection is encouraged
- All handheld equipment (including non-disposable gloves) should be appropriately sanitized

Personal Hygiene

- Every team member is responsible for disinfecting their own work gear with an approved sanitizing agent. This includes Personal Flotation Devices and any safety gear that was handled.

Maintain Existing Safety Procedures

- The Operator is responsible for the safety of the vessel and its occupants at all times. This includes ensuring that all participants adhere to OSU Small Boat Program requirements and the COVID-19 guidelines approved for the project.
- A copy of the Boating Work Plan, including the Emergency Response Plan, should be kept on the vessel at all times during operations.
- First Aid and CPR should be done with standard PPE protocols employing gloves and CPR barriers. All rescuers should employ facial coverings during their response to the greatest degree possible. Prioritizing CPR, First Aid, and AED use where appropriate, is the immediate concern. Per established standards, rescuer hands and emergency gear should be appropriately cleaned and disinfected post-rescue.



Oregon State
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Scientific Diving and Boating Programs- Research Office

Oregon State University, A312 Kerr Admin Building, Corvallis, Oregon 97331

Off 541-737-6893; Cell 541-740-4577; Fax 541-737-9041

<http://research.oregonstate.edu/diving> email: kevin.buch@oregonstate.edu

References

Oregon State University Small Boat Program: <https://research.oregonstate.edu/boating>

Scientific Boating Safety Association: https://scientificboating.org/?page_id=1695

American Canoe Association: <https://www.americancanoe.org/page/COVID19Guidelines>

Oregon State University COVID-19 Resources: <https://covid.oregonstate.edu/>

USCG PFD and COVID-19 Resources: <https://www.uscgboating.org/multimedia/news-detail.php?id=533>

US EPA COVID-19 'N' List, Approved Agents: <https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2-covid-19>



OSU DIVING & BOATING COVID-19 SELF CHECK QUESTIONNAIRE

Prior to reporting to the dive location or vessel each time, please conduct a self-check to screen for possible COVID-19 symptoms.

Do you currently have or have had these symptoms in the last 14 days?

- Fever or chills----- Yes / No
- Cough----- Yes / No
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing----- Yes / No
- Fatigue----- Yes / No
- Muscle or body aches----- Yes / No
- Headache----- Yes / No
- New loss of taste or smell----- Yes / No
- Sore throat----- Yes / No
- Congestion or runny nose----- Yes / No
- Nausea or vomiting----- Yes / No
- Diarrhea ----- Yes / No

Other important questions:

- Is your body temperature **above** 100F/38C without the use of medication to reduce temperature? Yes / No
- Have you been in contact with anyone with a confirmed or suspected COVID-19 infection? Yes / No
- Have you recently traveled outside of Oregon? Yes / No
- Have you recently traveled internationally? Yes / No



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If you answer “Yes” to any of these questions, please contact your Supervisor prior to reporting to the work location.

If you are symptomatic, please stay home and contact your primary care provider for further assessment.

For general information on COVID-19 in Oregon, call 211. You can also call Benton County Health Department information line at 541-766-6120 between 8am and 5pm (check your local county website for information if you live outside of Benton County). If you are having a medical emergency, call 911.

We can all help stop COVID-19 from spreading. Always wear a face covering when in enclosed public or common areas. Wash your hands frequently and cover your cough. Stay home if you are sick.

Further guidance can be found on the OSU COVID-19 Resources and Updates webpage at: <https://COVID-19.oregonstate.edu/>