



STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES

Residential Voyages

COVID -19

Following the announcement that all remaining COVID restrictions have been lifted in England, we have reviewed and updated our **COVID-19 SOPs** in line with the Government's [Living with COVID](#) plan and our own risk assessment. These SOPs will be kept under review and may be varied during the year depending on COVID developments.

In addition to the Government's plan and our procedures outlined below, we will continue to work with groups on any specific or varying COVID Procedures that they are required or advised to follow.

1. COVID Procedures

We aim to create as COVID secure an environment on the vessel as possible. We will therefore implement a 'light touch' testing system. Everyone regardless of vaccination status, will be asked to take a test the day before a voyage. If the **result is positive, you will not be able to join the voyage.**

For the health and safety of everyone on board, and to ensure the voyage can run unimpeded, please do not join the voyage if you, or a close contact feel unwell or display COVID symptoms. Furthermore, if a member of your household (HH) is COVID positive, please do not attend.

Providing you can supply sufficient evidence of your own or a HH members' positive result, we can, depending on the circumstances, offer you a refund or credit to be used as payment, or part payment, on a future voyage this season or next season if there is no availability.

For the safety of the entire crew, everyone who attends a voyage must be willing to take a test if required.

2. Hygiene protocols:

Our Afterguard will continue to practise and **encourage regular handwashing and sanitising** of all touchpoints onboard our vessels.

- Germs spread easily. Always carry tissues to catch coughs or sneezes.
- Germs can live for several hours on tissues. Dispose of tissue responsibly and as soon as possible.
- Hand sanitiser will be placed in suitable locations around the vessel and will be easily accessible.
- Hand sanitiser should be used before and after any communal item is used as is reasonably possible

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- The heads on board are to be deep cleaned at least once a day.
- The wearing of face masks/coverings is not compulsory when onboard our vessels. Although, we encourage you to still bring one to wear for any shoreside facilities that may require a face covering to be worn.

3. Health and welfare checks:

- Afterguard will continue to remain aware of the general health and wellbeing of all crew onboard.
- Health and welfare checks will be undertaken on a regular basis, to provide support and reassurance to everyone.
- If someone displays COVID symptoms, they will be required to take a lateral flow test.
- Should someone display symptoms and refuses or is unable to take a test, the skipper retains the right to notify their NOK and put the person ashore for collection.
- We will endeavour to have tests available on the boats, but everyone should bring a test with them to ensure supply.

4. Post Voyage

If within 5 days of leaving a vessel you return a positive COVID test, please advise the RSP who will inform the rest of the crew.

Addendum

If an individual has a positive test during a voyage.

As per the joining instructions, everyone joining the vessel must have an emergency contact person who can collect them from the vessel in case they test positive.

If someone tests positive the **RSP strategy** is as follows:

- The person who tested positive is to be isolated as far as is practical and should restrict their movements around the vessel.
- The individual's parent, guardian or next of kin (NOK) is to be notified and arrangements made for them to be collected from the nearest UK mainland port.
- The Project Director/Designate is to be notified immediately.
- If appropriate and subject to the agreement of the Afterguard, the Project Director/Designate will give approval for the voyage to proceed, however the Project Director/Designate will notify the NOK of everyone on board and the choice to remain or leave will be offered.

Detailed Protocol:

1. Isolation and management of a confirmed infection:

The person with the positive test should if possible be isolated in a separate cabin. Depending on the age and needs of the crew member appropriate AG supervision may be required. They should wear a face covering/mask if this does not impede their breathing. Their belongings should be brought to this cabin.

- Advise others not to go into this cabin/area.
- Ensure best possible and safe ventilation.
- If it is not possible to isolate them, move them to an area which is at least 2 metres away from other people (this could be a suitable area on deck if conditions allow).
- Separate heads should be allocated to them - the heads must be deep cleaned and disinfected after every use and again before being used by anyone else.
- Designate one AG member, to care for the person if possible.
- Appropriate personal protective equipment should be used by an AG member assigned to look after this person.

2. Care and welfare of the case:

- Monitor temperature, respiration etc.
- Phone 911 /999 /radio for medical advice if necessary.
- Avoid physical examination unless necessary.
- See any relevant protocol arranged with group/parent if necessary.
- Crew and AG instructed not to post anything on social media.
- Contact Project Director/Designate to formalise plan for:
 - Contacting next of kin of suspected infected person
 - Getting advice from PHE
 - Contacting next of kin of all onboard and any referring agency as necessary
 - Travel home of the infected person(s)
 - Plan for the others onboard

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3. Disposal of waste

To dispose of waste such as disposable cleaning cloths, face coverings, tissues, and PPE from people with COVID-19:

- Put it in designated rubbish bags, tie securely and place in a second bag and tie securely.
- Put it in a suitable and secure place marked for storage for at least 24 hours.
- This waste should be stored safely (e.g., lazarette) and securely kept away from crew. Do not put waste into main bins until the waste has been stored for at least 24 hours.