

**World Ocean School
Statement on COVID-19 and the coronavirus pandemic
(Updated June 29, 2020)**

The situation surrounding the coronavirus, officially titled COVID-19, continues to develop. The World Health Organization (WHO) and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) regularly update their recommendations as more is learned about the disease. Likewise, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts has issued guidelines for reopening standards. Our current planning is based on **Workplace Safety and Reopening Standards for For-Hire and Charter Vessels – Phase II¹** issued by the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs on June 9, 2020. In developing our plans, we have also consulted **Workplace Safety and Reopening Standards for Recreational Boating Businesses – Phase II²** and **Workplace Safety and Reopening Standards for Businesses Providing Outdoor Recreational Experiences and Educational Activities – Phase II³**. While not a member of the Association, we have also consulted, "Reopening Guidelines: Getting the Domestic Passenger Vessel Industry Back Underway," published by the Passenger Vessel Association.

In response to the current public health crisis, World Ocean School has implemented the following protocols and procedures:

A. Social Distancing

- Passengers and crew members must abide by social distancing protocols of at least six feet between individuals. Passengers and crewmembers from the same household are not required to social distance from each other.
- Signage is installed to reinforce safe social distancing.
- Face coverings or masks are required for all employees and customers/visitors.
- Vessels shall remain a safe distance apart. We will not tie up to other crafts. All local rules, regulations, laws, and Coast Guard requirements still apply.
- Meal and break times will be staggered if necessary, regulating maximum number of people in one place and ensuring at least 6 feet of physical distancing during any meeting.
- We will minimize the use of confined spaces (e.g., control rooms, storage spaces) by more than one individual at a time; all employees in such spaces at the same time are required to wear face coverings.

B. Hygiene Protocols

- There is ready access to handwashing facilities on site, including soap and running water, along with alcohol-based hand sanitizers with at least 60% alcohol.
- Crewmembers will provide visitors, guests and students with handwashing capability or sanitizer on the vessel.
- Employees will be supplied with an adequate supply of soap, disinfectant, hand sanitizer, and paper towels.
- The Captain will provide training for crewmembers regarding the COVID-19 control plan, train the crewmembers in basic hygiene practices, such as frequent and thorough hand washing, respiratory etiquette (e.g., covering coughs and sneezes), and discourage crewmembers or passengers from using others' personal property, work tools, and equipment.
- There will be regular, and not less than daily, cleaning and sanitation of all high-touch areas such as tools, workstations, door handles, and restrooms.
- There is visible signage throughout the vessel to remind employees and visitors on the hygiene and safety protocols.

C. Staffing and Operations

- A designated crew member will conduct daily staff temperature screening and maintain staff screening log.
- The organization has established a COVID-19 control plan addressing the practices and protocols to protect staff and the public.
- Signage is posted that clearly states that any person with symptoms consistent with COVID-19 may not enter the vessel.
- Staff and crew have been trained on up-to-date safety information and precautions including hygiene and other measures aimed at reducing disease transmission.
- We have limited visitors and service providers to the vessel; shipping and deliveries are completed in designated areas.
- Crew members will log all persons on the vessel, including visitors, guests and program participants, to enable contact tracing (name and phone number or name and email address). At least one member per household is logged so as to assist with contact tracing.
- Employees must stay home if they are feeling ill. Crew members who are feeling unwell need to report to management and will be isolated off the vessel.
- Workers who test positive for COVID-19 will be required to disclose to the management for purposes of cleaning/disinfecting and contact tracing. If World Ocean School is notified of a positive case on the vessel, we will notify the local Board of Health and assist them as reasonably requested to advise likely contacts to isolate and self-quarantine. Testing of other workers may be considered.
- Employees who are particularly vulnerable to COVID-19 according to the Centers for Disease Control (e.g., due to age or underlying conditions) are encouraged to stay home.
- Notices to employees, workers, and visitors are posted containing important health information and relevant safety measures as outlined in government guidelines.

D. Cleaning and Disinfecting

- We will conduct frequent cleaning and disinfection of the vessel and the boarding area.
- Cleaning logs will be kept that include date, time, and scope of cleaning.
- Heavy transit areas and high-touch surfaces (e.g., doorknobs, handrails, seating areas, etc.) will be cleaned frequently.
- In the event of a positive case, the vessel will be taken out of service temporarily for a deep cleaning and disinfecting of the workplace in accordance with current guidance.

As the Situation Continues to Develop:

All organizations and businesses in the US are facing unique concerns in the midst of the COVID-19 outbreak. Businesses are seeing large disruptions in their supply chains, having to find ways to compensate for breaks in the chain because of closures in heavily impacted countries. While this can be overwhelming, World Ocean School will adhere to the following guidelines as we navigate the decision-making process and response:

- Remain calm. As with any situation, it is important to remain calm to ensure responses are measured and appropriate
- Stay informed. Follow trusted sources of information, including the various COVID-19 dedicated websites for the CDC, the WHO, OSHA, and also local governmental health and public safety organizations
- Be prepared. Create and constantly update a plan for the organization and trust in that plan. Be sure to follow the steps that have been laid out

- Communicate. Be sure to communicate plans and information to all involved, including employees, volunteers, clients, parents, and others.

1.

<https://www.mass.gov/doc/workplace-safety-and-reopening-standards-for-for-hire-and-charter-vessels-phase-ii/download>

2.

<https://www.mass.gov/doc/workplace-safety-and-reopening-standards-for-recreational-boating-businesses-phase-ii/download>

3.

<https://www.mass.gov/doc/businesses-providing-outdoor-recreational-experiences-and-educational-activities-phase-ii/download>