

## SCUBA DIVING

Follow all guidelines required for **ALL BUSINESSES** and **additionally**:

### **PRIMARY RECOMMENDATIONS**

To minimize contact, the following options will be in place:

- Pay by phone and curbside tank/ gear drop-off and pick-up will be available.
- In-store shopping will be limited by shop size and configuration and in keeping with social distancing guidelines.
- Hand washing or sanitizing station will be available at the store entrance.
- Register counter will have a barrier in place, like those already being used at supermarkets and gas stations.
- Employees will have masks and gloves.
- Customers will be required to wear masks before entering the premises and sanitize hands prior to entry.
- Covid-19 signage will be posted at the single entrance.
- Signs posted in restroom area to include handwashing procedures.

### **Boat Dive Protocol:**

- Boats will limit occupancy based on social distancing guidelines of 3-6 ft in this outdoor environment.
- All customers and boat staff must have a cloth face covering that is suitable for a wet environment during transportation.
- Boats will be sprayed down and cleaned before/after each voyage with approved CDC cleaners.
- Approved disinfectants onboard and available for customer/crew use.

### **Rental Department Procedures:**

*Customers:*

- Phone orders/ pre-paid rentals for curbside pick-up are highly recommended
- Rental pick-up area will have limited occupancy in keeping with social distancing protocols.
- Masks must be worn, and hands cleaned prior to entering the rental area.
- Purchase of personal mouthpieces are recommended for use on all rental gear. If purchased, the personal mouthpiece will be installed on the rental regulator at time of rental and will be removed and returned to the customer at time of gear check-in.
  - *Customers not wishing to purchase their own mouthpiece will be given a standard sterilized rental gear mouthpiece.*
- When returning used gear customers will rinse gear in cleaning solution, prior to turning it over to the staff to sanitize.

### **Employee procedures**

- All staff must wear protective masks at all times and wash hands regularly.
- All gear rented will come from the sanitized section of the rental department.

## **Cleaning/ Sanitizing Procedures**

- The outside of all scuba cylinders will be washed with an EPA's "List N" approved disinfecting agent and in accordance with the Divers Alert Network (DAN) guidelines prior to renting. The air inside the cylinder is heated due to the compressing and filling process to a temperature greater than the SARS-CoV-2 can survive, therefore it is highly unlikely that COVID-19 can survive inside a scuba cylinder.
  - All gear will be cleaned on a soap and water solution prior to sanitizing as per the CDC guidelines. Once cleaned the gear will be moved to the sanitizing process in accordance with the Divers Alert Network (DAN) guidelines.
  - BCD and Regulators- after initial washing all regulators and BCD mouthpieces will be soaked in a Steramine or bleach solution per the DAN guidelines for up to 30 minutes ensuring that the disinfecting solution enters the body of the second stage. After disinfecting if bleach was used the regulator and BCD will be rinsed in a soap and water solution removing the bleach residue.
  - BCD's, Masks, Fins, Weight pockets & belts- after initial washing all gear will be soaked in a Simple Green or another EPA and Manufacturer approved disinfectant in accordance with DAN guidelines. BCD's are treated internally with disinfectant and rinsed.

## **Dive Courses/ Academic Training:**

- When feasible, online training is the best option for keeping person-to-person contact at a minimum. Webinar or Zoom meetings is another good option for academic sessions.
  - When an in-person classroom session is required, the class size will be determined by the size and configuration of the classroom and kept within socially distancing guidelines.
  - Class sizes will be limited, and standard COVID-19 and social distancing protocols will be followed including but not limited to face masks will be worn during all surface intervals and during any out of water class time.
  - All Academic and water training sessions will follow the WRSTC PADI and/or appropriate training organizations COVID-19 guidelines for safe training.

## **In-Water Diver Training – Out-of-Air (OOA) simulations (As per training agency standards):**

- Drill begins
- Diver one, simulating OOA, signals their buddy, "Out of Air!"
- Diver two presents a working second-stage regulator.
- Diver one takes the offered regulator and switches from their primary regulator to their backup second stage while gently purging the donated second stage to check that it is working.
  - All the steps from a normal air-sharing drill are practiced – only the switch to the buddy's regulator is simulated.

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- When the drill is completed (after horizontal swim, ascent, etc.), diver one returns the donated regulator to their buddy.
- This method adequately demonstrates all the component skills of an air-sharing drill, including having the OOA diver switch regulators without exposing either diver to an elevated risk of cross contamination.

## Sources:

Dive Community Covid-19 Practices, April 2020

EPA, List N: Disinfectants for use against SARS-CoV-2, April 23, 2020

<https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2>

DAN, Disinfection of Scuba Equipment and COVID-19, 2020

<https://www.diversalertnetwork.org/emailview/landing/coronavirus/gearDisinfection/index.html>

National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases (NCIRD), Division of Viral Diseases, CDC

Cleaning and disinfection guidelines, March 28, 2020, [https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cleaningdisinfection.html?CDC\\_AA\\_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fprepare%2Fcleaning-disinfection.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cleaningdisinfection.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fprepare%2Fcleaning-disinfection.html)

Divers Alert Network (DAN), Disinfection of Scuba Equipment and COVID-19, 2020

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World Recreation Scuba Training Council (WRSTC), Avoiding disease transmission in diver training, 2020 <https://wrstc.com/avoiding-disease-transmission-in-diver-training/>

Professional Association of Dive Instruction (PADI), PADI® and EFR® Course Precautions to Avoid Disease Transmission, April 9 2020,

[https://www2.padi.com/mypadi/uploadedFiles/24\\_Training\\_Essentials/Training\\_News\\_9Apr20.pdf](https://www2.padi.com/mypadi/uploadedFiles/24_Training_Essentials/Training_News_9Apr20.pdf)

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