

# SUSAC - Risk Assessment for COVID-19

## Work/Activity: SCUBA Diving and Powerboat Use During COVID-19

The club operates diving operations from both the shore and by boat. This risk assessment is aimed at covering how COVID-19 requirements may be adhered to while undertaking club diving activities with some sections specific to use of the club powerboat. It does not cover generic risks for diving. Please see the Open Water and Powerboat risk assessments for this. The coronavirus outbreak poses additional risk which requires additional awareness and concern to ensure safe diving. Any diver or participant with symptoms of coronavirus (or other flu-like symptoms) or who is self-isolating will be informed to stay home and will not be allowed to partake in any club diving activities. Participants will be reminded to maintain good hand, respiratory and personal hygiene throughout the year to help ensure participants within the club remain coronavirus free. During training and diving, the club follows Government advice, the BSAC safe diving recommendations and additional coronavirus guidance.

<b>Group:</b> Southampton University Sub-Aqua Club	<b>Assessor(s):</b> James Mudge (Diving Officer) <span style="float: right;"><b>Contact:</b> james.mudge@bsac.com</span>	
<b>Guidance/standards/Reference documents</b>	<b>Competence requirements</b>	
<p>All diving activities carried out by the club follow BSAC safe diving recommendations which can be found here: <a href="https://www.bsac.com/safety/bsacs-safe-diving-guide/">https://www.bsac.com/safety/bsacs-safe-diving-guide/</a></p> <p>This document has been produced in accordance with the latest COVID guidance from the National Governing Body for Scuba Diving and Snorkelling in the UK <a href="https://www.bsac.com/news-and-blog/how-the-roadmap-out-of-lockdown-affects-the-diving-community-in/">https://www.bsac.com/news-and-blog/how-the-roadmap-out-of-lockdown-affects-the-diving-community-in/</a></p>	<p><b>Role:</b> Diving Officer</p>	<p><b>Skills, experience, or qualifications:</b> The Diving Officer has ultimate responsibility for diving activities and delegates his / her authority from the National Diving Officer to the Training Officer to conduct training at branch level. The Diving Officer is responsible for the award of in-club qualifications and is the only branch member with this authority other than the lead instructor. The Diving Officer is responsible for the conduct of divers within the club and therefore, although not necessarily present, should have an awareness of all branch diving activity.</p>
<p><b>Linked Risk Assessments</b></p> <p>Alternative risk assessments are provided for the following activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Open Water</li> <li>Sheltered Water</li> <li>Powerboat Use</li> <li>Public Engagement Activities</li> <li>SUSU Bunfight</li> <li>Social Events</li> </ul>	<p><b>Role:</b> Instructor / Assistant Instructor</p>	<p><b>Skills, experience, or qualifications:</b> Instructors are primarily nationally qualified individuals who have passed strict theory and practical examinations by national assessors. They will be highly qualified in their own diving and very experienced. The minimum grade is 'Practical Instructor'. Assistant instructors will have attended national training but not have passed any examinations. They will require constant supervision from fully qualified Instructors who are the only people who can sign off any elements of training. A fully qualified Instructor must always be present if an Assistant Instructor is teaching and the Assistant Instructor must have a fully qualified Instructor's permission to teach.</p>
	<p><b>Role:</b> Cox</p>	<p><b>Skills, experience, or qualifications:</b> The Cox should be qualified to RYA Level 2 / BSAC Boat Handling or equivalent. They should be comfortable with diver drop-off and recovery and ideally hold a GMDSS Short Ranger Certificate, however this is not essential. They must hold the authority of the Boat Officer to be the designated cox.</p>

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Task	Hazards	Affects Who?	Likelihood	Impact	Score	Control measures	Additional control measures	Action by whom?	Likelihood	Impact	New Score
Any	COVID-19 transmission from infected individual attending diving	All	3	2	6	Anybody who has any COVID-19 symptoms listed here ( <a href="https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/">https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/</a> ) should not attend any SUSAC activities and follow all NHS advice.	Anybody who has had COVID-19 symptoms (whether they have received a negative or positive test result) must not partake in any activities within 2 weeks of their last display of symptoms. Contact details will be taken for all attendees so contact can be made if an attendee later exhibits symptoms.	All	1	2	2
Eating and drinking	COVID-19 transmission	All	2	2	4	All individuals should bring their own food and drinks. None will be provided by the cox or anyone else.	Nobody must share any food or drink items, including utensils. They must be stored in their own bags when not in use. Sanitising gel must be used before and after eating and drinking.	All	1	2	2
Equipment Rental	Contracting coronavirus by using dive equipment that has been handled by others	Divers	2	2	4	All equipment should be stored in a bag for individual use to ensure no cross contamination and that there is no mix up in equipment. Upon return of rental equipment, it should be washed in free-flowing water or its own water bath not used by others. Following this, it should be disinfected before being returned and then handled with care to prevent further contamination.	As always recommended, divers should be encouraged to supply and use their own personal equipment. All club owned equipment will be washed with Chemgene HLD4H Surface Disinfectant after use.	Divers	1	2	2
Equipment collection and return	Contracting or spreading coronavirus due to close proximity in the equipment storage facility	Divers  People helping with equipment collection	2	2	4	No more than one person should be in the kit storage area at any one time. Each diver should only enter the kit storage upon collection to pick up their own equipment.	Where possible kit should be designated and sorted into individual bags for each diver at least 3 days prior to being collected for diving to allow time for the equipment to cease being contaminated. Where possible divers should travel in the same vehicle as their equipment and be the only one to load and unload it.	All	1	2	2

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Travelling, including to collect equipment and travel to dive sites	Contracting or spreading coronavirus due to close proximity during traveling	Divers of different households travelling together	3	2	6	Cars should be cleaned and disinfected before being used to transport passengers from multiple households. All guidance from the gov website should be observed ( <a href="#">link</a> ). Car groups should be maintained for both outward and return journeys. Members of a buddy pair should either travel alone, with members of their own household, or with each other.	The number of households per car should be reduced where possible, with the maximum possible distance being maintained. If possible, divers will travel alone. It is acknowledged however that this is not always possible. Face coverings should be worn, and good ventilation maintained.	Drivers All	1	2	2
Using changing facilities on site	Contracting or spreading coronavirus due to close proximity or contamination of surfaces	Divers	2	2	4	Each diver should use a single spot in changing facilities throughout the entirety of the day to minimise spread of the virus due to surface contamination. Distance should be maintained while in changing facilities and numbers limited if necessary.	Where possible divers are encouraged to wear clothes that do not require the use of changing facilities, i.e. arriving to the dive site wearing base layers to be worn under an undersuit. They are also encouraged to not use changing facilities, even if available, where possible.	All	1	2	2
Zippering up a drysuit	Contracting or spreading coronavirus due to close proximity	All	2	2	4	Divers should zip up their own drysuit if possible. However, this is not always achievable. If so, they must stand side to side, front to back at 90 degrees to the wind thereby making sure neither is downwind of each other. Face coverings and gloves must be worn while doing this.		All	1	2	2
Spitting in a mask	Contracting or spreading coronavirus through fluid exchange	Divers	1	2	2	Divers must not spit in their masks. They must use proprietary defog methods.	No buckets of water will be shared to rinse masks. This must be done in open water.	Divers	1	2	2
Performing tasks as a buddy pair – Kitting Up	Contracting or spreading coronavirus due to close proximity and contact with equipment	Divers	2	2	4	Divers should assemble their own equipment. Where assistance is required, buddies should help each other, wearing a mask and gloves and neither down wind of each other	Where possible benches should be used to don equipment without assistance. This process can be made easier with proper loosening of straps and preparation.	All	1	2	2

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Performing tasks as a buddy pair – Buddy Check	Contracting or spreading coronavirus due to close proximity and contact with equipment	Divers	2	2	4	Care should be taken not to breathe from the alternate second stage to reduce risk of contamination.	Buddy check should be conducted at a distance with visual demonstrations of all equipment.	All	1	2	2
Performing tasks as a buddy pair - Diving	Contracting or spreading coronavirus due to close proximity and contact with equipment	Divers	2	2	4	Despite guidelines to social distance, while underwater divers should ensure that they are still able to maintain visual contact and be able to assist each other as needed. While underwater, wearing full protective equipment and breathing filtered air, coronavirus transmission should not be possible.	In the case of a need to share air, the alternate second stage should be taken rather than donating the primary.	All	1	2	2
Refilling cylinders	Contracting or spreading coronavirus due to contact with equipment	Divers Compress or trained members	2	2	4	Where possible divers should fill their own cylinders. Where this is not possible a single person should be in charge of filling cylinders and should disinfect each cylinder valve upon receiving and before return.	Once cylinders have been filled each diver should ensure they collect the cylinder that they used previously.	All	1	2	2
Boarding the boat	Contracting or spreading coronavirus due to close proximity	All	2	2	4	Divers should board the boat completely unaided.	If help is needed to board the boat, divers should use PPE while doing so.	All	1	2	2
Being on the boat	Contracting or spreading coronavirus due to contact with equipment	All	3	2	6	People on the boat will be limited to a maximum of four. All people must sit as far away from each other as practical and wear face coverings at all times where practical. The cox will provide a full boat brief to ensure all persons are fully aware of their duties and requirements regarding boat diving and COVID-19.	The absolute minimum number of items must be brought upon the boat to enable as much space as possible from others. <i>Dives could be run in waves, with a group on shore and a group on the boat. This will increase the number who can dive without making the boat more full.</i>	Cox / Boat Officer	1	2	2
Recovering others equipment into a boat	Contracting or spreading coronavirus due to contact with equipment	All	2	2	4	Divers must wear face coverings while assisting equipment return to the boat. They must also wear gloves, or sanitise their hands immediately the activity is finished.	Divers in the water will keep their mask on until they are safely back in the boat, upon which they will don a face covering.	All	1	2	2

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First aid and CPR	Contracting or spreading coronavirus due to contact with equipment and contact	All	3	2	6	<p>While maintaining social distancing may not be possible, appropriate additional safety measures should be taken to ensure the protection of both the casualty and any rescuers.</p> <p>PPE including face mask and gloves should be worn while performing a rescue</p> <p>Avoid approaching the victims face except to ensure that airways are open. For example, breathing can be assessed by observation of the victim's chest movement</p> <p>If the victim is not breathing, then an AED should be used where available</p> <p>If CPR is required, then chest compressions should be carried out without rescue breaths</p>	In the event of a conscious and aware casualty they should be encouraged and spoken through administering first aid to themselves.	All	2	2	4
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# SUSAC - Risk Assessment for COVID-19

Reviewed By		Comments
Responsible Person	Date	
Michael McDonnell (President)	19/03/2021	BSAC Instructor
James Mudge (Diving Officer)	19/03/2021	BSAC Instructor, Director of the British Sub-Aqua Club

Likelihood			
	→		
Impact ↑	3	6	9
	2	4	6
	1	2	3

Impact Level	
	Description
<b>High (3)</b>	Major Injury or Death; Loss of limb or life-threatening conditions. In hospital for more than 3 days, and/or subject to extensive prolonged course of medical treatment and support.
<b>Medium (2)</b>	Serious injury causing hospitalisation, less than 3 days. Rehabilitation could last for several months.
<b>Low (1)</b>	Minor/superficial injuries. Local first aid treatment or absence from work for less than 3 days.
Likelihood	
Level	Description
<b>High (3)</b>	Will probably occur in most circumstances
<b>Medium (2)</b>	Might occur at some time
<b>Low (1)</b>	May occur only in exceptional circumstances

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## Member Confirmation of Understanding

Date	Name	Signature

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Date	Name	Signature