

# SUSAC - Risk Assessment for COVID-19 (Training in Sheltered and Open Water)

## Work/Activity: Training SCUBA Divers During COVID-19

The club undergoes SCUBA diving in a wide range of different locations and conditions. During each of these activities, the club follows the BSAC safe diving recommendations. These cover the general situations that may be encountered whilst diving and provide standard procedures to be followed to ensure the safety of all individuals involved. 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: Southampton University Sub-Aqua Club</b>		<b>Assessor(s): James Mudge (Diving Officer)</b>	<b>Contact: james.mudge@bsac.com</b>
<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>            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 jurisdiction at club level and delegates their 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. The Diving Officer is responsible for the conduct of divers within the club and therefore, although not necessarily present, should have an awareness of branch activity when training is taking place.</p>
<p><b>Linked Risk Assessments</b></p> <p>Alternative risk assessments are provided for the following activities:</p> <p>Generic Diving Activities and Boat Use            Public Engagement Activities            SUSU Bunfight            Social Events</p>		<p><b>Role:</b> Training Officer</p>	<p><b>Skills, experience or qualifications:</b> The training officer is appointed by the Diving Officer, and it is the Diving Officer's decision alone who to appoint as they carry this direct authority from the National Diving Officer. They must be competent and confident in the role. No prior experience is required, and no minimum qualification is stipulated. They will organise branch events that take place in open water, sheltered water and swimming pools, in liaison with the branch committee.</p>
		<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 must have a fully qualified Instructor's permission to do so.</p>

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Task	Hazards	Affects Who?	Likelihood	Impact	Score	Control measures	Additional control measures	Action by whom?	Likelihood	Impact	New Score
Diving	Lack of control of students (additional concern due to distancing requirements above the water).	All divers	2	3	6	As previously, all instructors to maintain full attention on students. No other activities should be engaged in. Where possible, masks and regulators or PPE will be used on the surface rather than distancing measures to ensure instructors have sufficient control over students.		Instructors	1	3	3
Teaching – briefings / debriefs	Contracting or spreading coronavirus due to close proximity	All members	2	3	6	Pre and post dive briefings will be given outside, in the open air.  Where possible, divers won't talk in the water. When briefing is required at the surface, students will keep masks on and regulators in their mouth or distancing will be maintained during briefings, where feasible. Signals will be used in the place of talking where possible.		Instructors	1	3	3
Teaching - practice runs	Contracting or spreading coronavirus due to close proximity	All members	2	3	6	Practice runs will be conducted in standing depth water with masks on and regulators in mouth AND/OR proper distancing will be maintained AND/OR participants will be wearing proper PPE.	Equipment will be suitably decontaminated after each use by a student or instructor (e.g., manikins).	Instructors	1	3	3
Kitting up / dekitting	Contracting or spreading coronavirus due to close proximity	All divers	2	3	6	Students and instructors will kit up outside, maintaining distancing from other students and instructors, AND/OR will wear PPE where distancing is not possible.  Students will set up and check their own equipment, where appropriate. Hand Sanitizer will be used before and after touching another individual's equipment.	All equipment will be dunked in disinfected and allowed to dry between use.	Instructors	1	3	3

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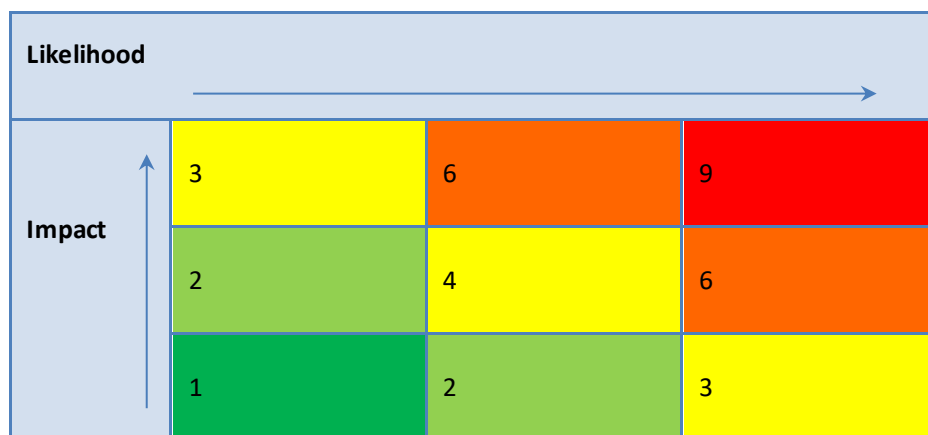
In-water Training	Contracting or spreading coronavirus due to close proximity	All divers	2	3	6	Training will be done in small groups with a maximum of 4 students per 1 instructor which will minimize interaction between different students and the magnitude of spread should it occur.	The time in the water but on the surface will be minimized to limit time the instructor and students are in close proximity at the surface	Training Officer Instructors	1	3	3
Buddy Checks	Contracting or spreading coronavirus due to close proximity	All divers	2	3	6	As in general diving risk assessment, students will assemble their own kit where possible. Assistance will be given whilst wearing appropriate PPE and gloves will be used AND/OR hands will be sanitised before and after helping.		Instructors	1	3	3
Teaching	Transmission through alternate source use	All divers	2	3	6	Each diver will have an assigned buddy which will remain constant throughout the training session. Divers will only breathe through their second stage, with their buddies the only ones breathing through their alternate.		Instructors	1	3	3
Teaching Rescue Skills	Contracting or spreading coronavirus due to close proximity		3	3	9	Rescue breaths will be taught in line with current guidance while coronavirus remains a risk.	A manikin will be used for dry practical teaching and disinfected after each use.	Instructors	1	3	3
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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



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

