



Boating safety is always one of our most important considerations but is even more important during the Covid crisis. Although I do not consider myself to be an expert in viruses, I am a chemist and used to work with viruses in a laboratory before becoming a sailing instructor. I am quite familiar with how to disinfect surfaces when working with viruses. Our policies are based on this experience and are as follows:

1. We ask students to not come to classes if they are exhibiting any signs of being sick including coughing, sneezing, fever, etc. We have changed our cancellation policy to allow students to reschedule classes with no penalty if they have any signs of sickness.
2. We will wipe all surfaces in the cockpit and below before, after, and during classes with an ethanol-soaked rag to minimize the possibility of Covid existing on surfaces on board our boats.
3. If you leave the boat to go to a bathroom, restaurant, store, or to refuel the boat you must be wearing a mask and gloves and when you return to the boat you must immediately wash your hands with soap and water or with a hand sanitizer. We have masks and gloves available for student use. We also have hand soap and/or hand sanitizers on board.
4. We limit the number of students on board to a maximum of five and is more typically 2-4 students.
5. We will not raft up with other boats or visit any beaches where others are in close proximity (less than 6 feet).

We consider boating to be one of the safest things you could do during the Covid crisis. Sailing by its nature is socially distant with minimal interaction with others and you are out in the fresh air and sunshine. If students chose to do so they can wear a mask during the entire class.

This is purely anecdotal and not related to scientific studies but during the entire month of April, I moved our 39 foot Pearson sloop over a 1000 miles up the Intracoastal Waterway from south Florida to the upper Chesapeake Bay passing through Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, Virginia, and Maryland and I can tell you that many thousands of people are out boating and that being on a small boat does not appear to be a significant source of Covid related illness. Indeed fishermen are considered an essential business and are out fishing every day on boats not that dissimilar to our own with little or no apparent impact on Covid being spread.

We are dedicated to meeting all Federal, State, and Local guidelines related to the Covid crisis and the above statement of our commonsense policies will be modified if necessary to be in full compliance and present a safe boat to our students.