



## **COVID-19 Guidance for people sailing on board *Prolific* plus parents / carers / guardians / group organisers**

We are very much looking forward to seeing you on board *Prolific* this year, and we want to make our voyages as welcoming, fun and friendly as possible.

One of our top priorities this year continues to be keeping everyone as safe as possible from Covid-19.

**This document explains the following:**

- **Precautions we will take to minimise the risk of bringing infection on board**
- **Procedures we will follow if we have any concerns about infection during a voyage**
- **Some changes to normal routines and practices during our voyages**

**This includes some things which you MUST agree to before sailing and which will be a condition of booking in 2023.**

### **Before joining the boat**

We will ask you to confirm on joining that ***in the 10 days before sailing you have NOT:***

- a) Had any signs or symptoms of Covid-19, or tested positive for Covid-19
- b) Knowingly been in contact with anyone who has had any signs or symptoms of Covid-19, or who has tested positive for Covid-19.

If you cannot confirm both these things then you MUST contact the OYT South office ([office@oytsouth.org](mailto:office@oytsouth.org). 02392 602278) as soon as you are aware of the problem.

If you become aware of the problem between 4pm Friday and 9am Monday, when our office is shut, and the start time of the voyage means that you NEED a decision over the weekend, you should call the boat on 07990 518915 and ask to speak to the Skipper.

The decision on whether you can join the voyage will depend on your specific personal circumstances, plus consideration of whether anyone else booked on your voyage is particularly vulnerable.

If a client for a group voyage wishes to arrange for everyone in their group to take a Covid test before sailing and advises us at least two weeks before sailing, OYT South will arrange for our staff and volunteers to test as well.

We strongly advise everyone who sails with us to get a COVID-19 vaccination and boosters when available.

7/3/2023

## Screening on arrival

A member of the OYT South team will ask you for the following before you board the boat:

- Confirmation that
  - You have not tested positive (even if asymptomatic) or had any signs or symptoms of Covid-19 in the last 10 days (*temperature above 37.8 C, persistent cough, loss of taste and/or smell, headache, stuffy or runny nose, sore throat, shortness of breath, fatigue, loss of appetite, muscle ache, diarrhoea, nausea and vomiting*); OR if you have had any of these symptoms, you have since had a negative Covid test. Additionally in the case of diarrhoea, nausea and vomiting, you have been symptom-free for two days before joining the boat.
  - You have not knowingly been in contact with anyone who has had any signs or symptoms of Covid-19 in the last 10 days, or who has tested positive

If you cannot confirm these things, you MUST have contacted the OYT South office ([office@oytsouth.org](mailto:office@oytsouth.org). 02392 602278) [or, if it is ESSENTIAL to deal with this over the weekend, spoken to the Skipper on board *Prolific* on 07990 518915] as soon as you became aware of the problem. We will make a decision about whether you can safely join the voyage, based on your specific circumstances, the likelihood of infection and whether anyone else booked on your voyage is particularly vulnerable.

If we have agreed that you can safely join the voyage, we will send you an email confirming this; and we will have told staff on board why you have been granted an exemption from the conditions above. As part of the pre-voyage screening, we will ask you to confirm that nothing has changed.

In addition, we will ask for confirmation that:

- You have not been told by a medical professional that you should be taking additional precautions due to the risk of getting COVID -19
- You are not required to self-isolate for travel-related reasons
- You or your parents or guardians have made arrangements so that there will be someone available 24/7 to collect you from the boat as quickly as possible if you develop Covid-19 symptoms during the voyage.

You should not travel to the boat if you cannot meet all these requirements.

## What to bring

A [kit list](#) is available on our website. You can also find this in the crew handbook which we send to you before the voyage.

Particularly for those clients who have sailed with us before, we would ask you to note some changes due to Covid-19:

- We are no longer able to provide duvets and pillows on board. You should bring your own pillow, and either a sleeping bag, or a single duvet plus a single sheet.
- Please bring your own water bottle

## Visiting overseas ports

We will review this on a voyage-by-voyage basis and may sail overseas (e.g. to France) if we believe it is safe to do so. We will continue to monitor the risk of being caught up in a Covid outbreak whilst abroad. Additional requirements for voyages which might go overseas (e.g. to France) would be:

- Passports (and visas if required): British passports must have at least 6 months left (and be less than 10 years old) when visiting the EU. British citizens (and, of course, EU nationals) do not need visas for short visits to the EU; other nationals should check EU visa requirements.
- A Global Health Insurance Card (in case you need medical treatment abroad) - these replace the old EHIC cards and are free. If you have an EHIC card, it remains valid until it expires.

## What happens if someone develops symptoms during the voyage

***If anyone on board has a temperature above 37.8 C, persistent cough, loss of taste and/or smell, headache, stuffy or runny nose, sore throat, shortness of breath, fatigue, loss of appetite, muscle ache, diarrhoea, nausea and vomiting (other than due to seasickness), we will:***

1. Isolate that person.
2. Carry out a rapid lateral flow test on that person.
3. Send that person home if the LFT is positive. If it is negative, we will continue to test that person each day while symptoms last.
4. The voyage will continue for everyone else unless anyone wishes to go home. (Should they choose to go home there will be no refund and they must pay for their own travel costs).

## Consents

Participants (or a parent/carer if under 18) must consent to the following:

- I agree to follow all instructions relating to Covid safety conduct on board *Prolific*, as given by the Skipper or other person on board acting on their behalf.
- I consent to having lateral flow test on board if the Skipper considers it appropriate, and I understand that if I refuse to do so I will be asked to leave the vessel
- I confirm that there will always be someone available throughout the duration of the voyage to collect me from the boat at as quickly as possible if I develop Covid-19 symptoms during the voyage.

The signature on your booking form confirms your consent to these statements.

## More details

A much longer document covering OYT South's Covid operating procedures is available here: <https://www.oypsouth.org/covid-guidance/>