



COVID-19 GUIDELINES

Commercial Fishing and For-Hire Vessels

The following guidelines were developed to ensure the health and wellbeing of passengers and crew on commercial and for-hire vessels, including dolphin cruises, sightseeing cruises and dive boats.

BEST PRACTICES

SOCIAL DISTANCING

Passengers should maintain a six-foot distance between themselves and others. Groups or families from the same household may gather but must maintain a six-foot distance from other groups or individuals.

DISINFECTING

All vessels should clean and disinfect all touchpoints between trips. For proper sanitation, CDC guidelines recommend the use of EPA-approved disinfectants, a mixture of 1/3 cup bleach to one gallon of water, or cleansers consisting of a minimum of 70% alcohol.

EQUIPMENT

Rods, reels and other fishing gear and equipment should be sanitized between trips or before transfer to another guest. Nets or gaffs should be handled only by crew members. Scuba divers should be encouraged to bring their own gear to reduce the risk of contamination. Operator-provided dive gear should be properly sanitized between uses.

PROTECTIVE GEAR

Encourage guests to wear gloves and face masks. Instruct passengers when making reservations if gloves and masks are required and if they should provide their own. Crew required to have close proximity with passengers should wear gloves and face masks.

PAYMENT

To prevent customers from gathering before boarding, encourage them to pre-pay with a credit card. If pre-payment is not possible, have hand sanitizer available for use after each transaction.

FOOD & BEVERAGE

Encourage guests to bring their own coolers, snacks and drinks to reduce the risk of transmission.

BOARDING

Any vessel crew or passengers showing signs of illness should not be permitted to board. Consider implementing a pre-boarding procedure that includes having passengers remain in their car until called to board.

These guidelines were developed by the Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant Consortium, the Alabama Cooperative Extension System, and the cities of Orange Beach and Gulf Shores, and are not intended to replace existing local, state and federal laws, regulations and standards. Visit the sites below to stay up to date with changes to state and federal requirements. To alleviate guest concerns, you are encouraged to post your safety protocols prominently on your website and social channels.

RESOURCES

CDC Guidance for Cleaning and Disinfecting Public Spaces, Workplaces, Businesses, Schools, and Homes:
[cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/pdf/Reopening_America_Guidance.pdf](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/pdf/Reopening_America_Guidance.pdf)

CDC Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) Cleaning and Disinfecting:
[cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/clean-disinfect](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/clean-disinfect)

Alabama Department of Health Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19):
alabamapublichealth.gov/covid19

Mississippi Department of Health Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19):
msdh.ms.gov/msdhsite/_static/14,0,420.html



The views expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the views of any of these organizations.