



COURAGEOUS SAILING

Membership Policy Updates, 2020, COVID-19 Response¹

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¹ Updated 7/3/20, RRR

Introduction

First of all, thank you for being a part of Courageous. 2020 is a weird time and we are excited to be getting our staff back to work and our participants back outside.

The following is our guide for how we feel we will be able to get back out on the water. It will evolve. It will seem burdensome relative to the ease that was 2019. It will contain a prescriptiveness that we need to accept as necessary.

If we adhere to that prescriptiveness now, we hope that we will be able to safely dial back these restrictions and return to a semblance of normal in the future.

Courageous is an organization centered on sharing and coming together, now presented with a situation where such activities are riskier than normal. We will get through this by working together and understanding why and how we are doing it, even if some changes for this year go against our normal methods.

Thank you for taking your time to read and understand the following policy changes, as we will need everyone cooperating on them in order to stay open this year.

Masks shall be worn at all times on the pier and dock

While the directions from the CDC and the state are that masks/face coverings are required only when the 6ft social distance bubble is broken, the whole premise of Courageous is that it is a shared space. Consider the pier and dock a bubble of its own, where you put up your face covering/mask, and you keep it on while you are there. While you may not be working with someone at every moment, the chances are high that someone has been in that space, or will be. Face coverings limit the transfer of pathogens/germs in these spaces.

Members/participants are allowed to lower face coverings while out sailing, but only doff your mask once you have left the dock and please don your mask when approaching the dock.

2020 Waiver, No Waiver Devices On Site

Courageous has an updated waiver for 2020, with specific changes for the Covid-19 world we live in. As always, this waiver must be signed before participating in activities on the pier and on our boats.

We will not have waiver signing devices on site this year, so it is integral that you sign an online waiver before coming onto the pier, or have a device on which you can do this electronic signing.

All Boat Access By Reservation Only

Because of the need to stagger arrival times of members, limit capacity, and be able to contact trace, all Adult Program pier and boat access shall be made through reservations until further notice. As we begin to open the program, there will be reservations every 15 minutes.

[Click here for the reservation system.](#)

Please call ahead if you are running late or early, as our capacity limit will affect our ability to accommodate such changes.

Guests; Non-Household Groups May Sail Together

The State's recommendation that sailors refrain from activities with non-household members has been lifted. Thus, in line with Phase 2 guidelines, Courageous will be lifting the "inter-household" sailing restriction originally released in an abundance of caution with our Reopening Guidelines. Members may sail with guests of their choosing beginning July 4.

Note: The measurement from the common position of the skipper on a R19 to a crew on the opposite side controlling the jib is approximately 4.5 feet. Falling within the 6 foot recommendation in place for Massachusetts, Courageous recommends that guests sailing with individuals outside their household wear a mask/face covering in order to reduce the risk of COVID-19.

Checkouts

Due to restrictions still in place, check-outs for the 2020 season will look a little differently. Any new members will be asked to email a short summary of their sailing experience to program director [Caitlyn Ridgely](#) and reserve a time to do a "physically distanced check-out". New members or those in need of a check-out in a different fleet will be briefed by staff on what they will be covering while on the water, and instructed via VHF radio when to perform various maneuvers. Courageous staff will evaluate the checkout from a motorboat. Rigging and de-rigging will be observed by the Courageous staff member from the dock. You may also be asked to explain how you will approach a maneuver before performing it so staff can make recommendations if an approach should be altered.

Note: Due to the high level of traffic, check-outs will not be possible on July 4th weekend.

Reporting of Covid-like Symptoms

For now, every person who comes to the pier *must* be filling out [this four question symptom notifier form](#) **every day** before stepping foot on the pier. This can be done at home before coming, or at the base of the pier on a smart phone/device. This notifier will 1. help us make sure pier participants are thinking about their own state of health before subjecting others to it, and 2. aid with contact tracing if we find that a sick participant has been on the pier.

Please be aware that we will be checking that this information has been submitted before members can check in and before employees can begin working on site *each day*.

If you feel that you are having symptoms, stay home or return home as soon as possible. Finally, if you are having Covid-19 symptoms and/or are positively diagnosed with Covid-19 *within 14 days* of participating on our pier, please contact us.

Front Desk Approach Guidelines

As we have grown used to at the grocery stores and elsewhere, our front desk area will be set up such that patrons and staff can maintain a six foot distance from other groups during the necessary steps of checking in at the boathouse.

Boathouse Building is Closed

In order to be able to maintain a safe space for the front desk staff and a limited number of facility staff, the interior of the Courageous Boathouse will *not be open* to members or students until further notice.

Please note:

1. There is *no storage of personal belongings* anywhere on site. Leave it at home or bring it sailing.
2. All available bathrooms will be portable toilets outside the boathouse. See below.
3. We are sad to announce that we cannot allow gathering or hanging out outside the boathouse, on the pier, or on the dock until further notice.

Bathroom Facility Changes

If you have been to Courageous before, you know that our indoor plumbing is already heavily taxed by the number of patrons that visit in the summer. Considering the safety measures we need to maintain with the presence of Covid-19, and the fact that we need to keep boathouse access extremely restricted, all available bathrooms will be portable toilets outside the boathouse. Please see our [bathroom cleaning policies and usage guidelines](#) for more info on how we are maintaining them this summer.

In addition to our regular cleaning schedule, we are asking that each patron spray down high touch surfaces after they use them.

Please do not bring communal equipment (life jackets, radios) into the bathrooms.

Remember that simple hand washing for 20 seconds is one of the best preventions for sickness, including Covid-19.

Lifejacket & Shared Equipment Use

This year more than ever, we are encouraging members, students, and staff to bring as much of their own equipment as possible. Even so, we know that many patrons will need to use our shared lifejackets and VHF radios, and of course we are sharing boats! We have instituted a regular cleaning schedule for all shared equipment.

In order to facilitate the cleaning of lifejackets and radios, we will have a receptacle into which used radios and used lifejackets can be put after use. Then, at the end of the day these lifejackets are cleaned and dried. Once they are dry they are put back into circulation.

Foul Weather During Our 2020 Season

Programming on days with predictably bad weather will be subject to a total cancellation, in order to avoid congregation of staff or participants in areas where appropriate social distancing will not be possible. On these days, our staff will contact participants with reservations in order to cancel and work to reschedule. Members may find that Courageous needs to be more prudent with our weather calls than in previous years, but please understand that these calls are made with our safety and health in mind.

Please understand that these prudent calls are necessary because we don't have the indoor space to house members in the event of large numbers being caught out in storms, and in order to prevent the need for multiple rescue or aid missions at once.

Rhodes 19s, daysailors, kayaks, rowboats, etc.

We are instituting staff cleaning of each boat after every use.

Q Dock

In an effort to provide an additional layer of protection to members that self categorize as high risk, we have adopted a practice commonly used for ships entering a new port. In

addition to our standard cleaning practices, we will be “quarantining” vessels after a single use, for 3 days.

We have allocated 6 boats in our fleet as “Q” boats and marked them with a yellow “Q” flag on the backstay. Only 2 boats of the 6 will be available each day, allowing for 3 days of quarantine for the others. The boats will live at the end of our dock, closest to the mouth of the Harbor to maintain the most distance from the rest of membership as possible. Please return the boat to its original slip following your sail. Any high-risk member wishing to utilize our “Q boats” fleet can make a reservation in our system by choosing “Q boats” from the options listed. Members not identifying as being in the “high risk” category are asked to utilize our standard R19 fleet and not to dock on any of the Q boats.

Fun Fact- Wikipedia defines the Q flag as: The plain yellow flag ("Quebec" or Q), perhaps derives its letter symbol for its initial use in quarantine, but this flag in modern times indicates the opposite—a ship that declares itself free of quarantinable disease, and requests boarding and inspection by Port State Control to allow the grant of "free pratique".

Cruising Boats

In order to maintain the cleanliness of our cruising boats, we are instituting special procedures for the use and cleaning of these boats. Clean facilities/heads/cabins/etc. will be marked with one-time use tags to indicate the date and time they were serviced.

For the use of cruising boats overnight or spending time down below, we remind our members that they are required to bring their own linens, and that the below-decks cushions must be left in an airing out state when leaving the boat.

Rescues and Coming Aboard in Emergencies

Both staff and patrons need to understand that Covid-19 safety and social distancing guidelines may need to be loosened in emergencies. In the case of a first aid situation (e.g. CPR) or in the case of a staff member needing to board a boat in the event of danger to that boat, these guidelines will necessarily be modified for the duration of that event.

Docking Without Aid

According to the state guidelines, our dock staff is not allowed to assist with departing and approaching the dock, so please be ready to complete your docking maneuvers single-handed or with your own crew. Until further notice, dock staff is unable to assist in docking unless it is an emergency.

Contact Tracing and Reporting of Covid-19 Symptoms

While we hope to not use it, our regular check in/check out system, paired with our symptom notifier allows us to contact trace our visitors without much change to our system.