

# NORTHWEST MARITIME CENTER & SALISH SEA EXPEDITIONS



## NWMC Salish Sea Expeditions Overnight Programs COVID Action Plan

Due to the ever changing nature of COVID-19 and its variants, NWMC will adapt the following policy when needed in order to align with federal, state, and local guidelines and in consultation with our Medical Advisor Team. **If you have any questions please contact:** Abbie Smith, Salish Sea Expeditions Program Manager [abbie@nwmaritime.org](mailto:abbie@nwmaritime.org)

### Prior to the Expedition

To be onboard and participate in a Salish Sea Expeditions overnight program, all staff and participants must:

- Be fully-vaccinated against COVID-19; boosters are strongly recommended for those eligible
- Show proof of a negative COVID PCR test within 48 hours of boarding
- Be asymptomatic when boarding, even if test is negative
- Reduce risk of exposure for 14 days prior to program—especially in the 72 hours leading up to the start (avoid high transmission locations i.e. restaurants, air travel, unmasked gatherings, and taking COVID precautions such as wearing masks in public, washing hands frequently, etc.).

“Your actions within 14 days before boarding influences the success of this program.”

This information will be gathered by the organizing teacher. The school will then submit the School Official Attestation Form indicating that all participants meet the above requirements. Participants not vaccinated or unable to comply with the above requirements will not be permitted to participate in overnight programming.

### During the Expedition

1. Staff will monitor and report their health via an app called SurveyCTO Collect which is part of UW's COVID-19 early detection program. Program manager will check daily for any emerging concerns.
2. Teachers will verbally monitor each student for the following symptoms daily: fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste/smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea.
3. Masks will be optional on deck and while participating in outdoor activities for students and chaperones. Below deck, masks must be worn. ***\*If a school requires masking at all times we will adapt to the stricter of the two policies. There will be times when boat crew will need to communicate without masks to safely operate the vessel.***

If no symptoms are noted the expedition will continue as planned.

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If symptoms appear in staff/participants, the symptomatic person(s) will be isolated from the group and will be administered a rapid antigen test. If notice is received during the expedition of a known exposure before the trip began, the exposed person will be tested, whether they are symptomatic or not. If the test is positive, the trip ends for everyone. Incident Communication Protocols will be engaged (see below). ***\*Wearing masks at all times will then be required for everyone except when needed to safely operate the vessel. The symptomatic person(s) will be isolated as much as possible until the expedition has ended.***

If the test is negative, the teacher, captain, on-board program coordinator, and program manager will consult to make a judgment call about continuing or ending the program based on symptoms and risk factors. The teacher will then communicate with the school and parents according to school protocols. ***\*Wearing masks at all times for everyone will then be required until symptoms resolve except when needed to safely operate the vessel. The symptomatic person(s) will be isolated as much as possible until the expedition has ended.*** If the decision is to end the expedition, Incident Communication Protocols will be engaged. If the decision is to continue the expedition, the symptomatic individual(s) will remain isolated and retested in 48-72 hours (if the expedition is still occurring), depending on the test instructions. A single negative antigen test is not sufficient to release a symptomatic person from isolation.

For safety reasons, if symptoms are reported in the evening, the affected person(s) will be tested and isolated for the evening with consistent and frequent check-ins for safety. The boat will not travel at night. The Captain and Program Coordinator will make a plan for the morning, making the best possible/safe speed for the originating port. If symptoms indicate need for seeking emergency medical attention, staff will do so. Incident Communication Protocols will be engaged (see below).

## Preventive Practices all staff and participants will engage in during the program:

- Basic sanitation (hand washing, hand sanitizer, etc.)
- Wearing masks below deck unless eating or sleeping
- Maximize ventilation in indoor spaces
- Enhanced Cleaning Protocols on the boat during and in between programs
- All meals will be eaten outside on deck or on shore
- All participants on *Carlyn* trips will sleep onshore in tents that allow for six feet of distance between participants
- Daily health check ins to monitor for symptoms

## Post Expedition for staff:

If no suspected exposure during the trip, staff will continue to follow practices that keep them healthy. If there is a suspected exposure during the trip, staff will isolate for 5 days and then be tested on day 5

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with a molecular test, preferably PCR. All staff will need to be asymptomatic and show a negative test within 48 hours of boarding the boat again.

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## FAQ's

### **Are the staff on board vaccinated?**

Yes, all staff on board the *Carlyn* are fully-vaccinated (including boosters for those eligible). They also must show proof of a negative test before starting any overnight program.

### **How are symptoms being monitored?**

Crew log in daily and report the presence or absence of any symptoms. From shore, the Program Manager monitors those reports for anything concerning that may show up. Teacher/School staff will verbally check in with students daily to monitor the presence or absence of any symptoms.

### **What happens if someone on the boat starts to feel unwell?**

If someone on the boat reports symptoms, that person will immediately be masked, isolated and given a rapid test to take. If the test is positive, the trip will end. If the test is negative, the teacher, captain, program coordinator and program manager will consult to make a judgment call about continuing or ending the program based on symptoms exhibited and risk factors. The symptomatic person will remain isolated and have a repeat antigen test performed in 48-72 hours (if the expedition is still occurring), depending on the test instructions.

### **Who administers the Rapid Tests?**

Rapid tests will be administered according to school protocols and test instructions.

### **What is the process for parent communication if someone on board is exhibiting symptoms?**

If a student on board is exhibiting symptoms, the teacher/school personnel will contact parents. If the trip is ending early parents will be contacted as soon as possible with the estimated time of arrival to the originating port.

### **What preventive measures are you taking?**

In addition to requiring all participants and staff to be vaccinated, show proof of a negative test, and be asymptomatic before boarding the boat, all staff and participants will engage in the following preventive measures:

- Basic sanitation (hand washing, hand sanitizer, etc.)
- Wearing masks below deck unless eating or sleeping

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- Maximize ventilation in indoor spaces
- Enhance Cleaning Protocols on the boat during and in between programs
- All meals will be eaten outside on deck or on shore
- All participants will sleep onshore in tents that allow for six feet of distance between participants
- Daily health check-ins to monitor for symptoms

## **What's an acceptable form of proof of a negative test?**

According to OSPI, negative test results may come from school testing programs, a health care provider, local health jurisdiction, pharmacy, or other community-based test site. Proof of a negative COVID-19 test includes the original, a copy, or a photo of a document or other communication from the test provider or laboratory that shows:

- The first and last name of the individual tested
- The type of test performed (PCR test if possible)
- The date of the specimen

This test result will need to be shared with your school following their guidelines. The school will then indicate to staff that each person on board has shown proof of a negative test.

## **Where will participants be sleeping during the program? Will there be adequate ventilation and spacing?**

Students on a Salish Sea Expeditions trip will be sleeping on shore in tents that allow for six feet of distance between people. While enclosed, there is still a lot of fresh air ventilation in a tent and windows can be opened partially or fully to allow even more air exchange.

## **Where will participants be eating?**

Participants will be eating all the meals and snacks outside. During the day they will eat their lunch and snacks on the boat deck. Breakfast will be eaten on shore.

## **How many participants will be on the boat?**

There is a maximum of 28 participants (students plus teacher and chaperones). There will also be six crew members onboard, including a Captain.

## **How are high contact points handled? Bathroom? Drinking water?**

All points of high contact like the bathroom on board will be cleaned morning, mid-day, and evening. Students will bring their own water bottles to use during the trip. These water bottles are filled via the sink in the boat's kitchen galley. One person (who will wash their hands before) fills these water bottles.