

TOURISM SANITIZATION GUIDANCE SCUBA DIVING (OUTDOORS)

This document has been created to provide tourism partners that operate dive operations in the Cayman Islands with guidance on safety and health-related measures, in response to the global pandemic Covid-19 pandemic. The guide seeks to address the following areas for consideration: (TEXT MISSING). It should be noted that the regulations pertaining to the COVID-19 suppression levels and public health policy and guidelines are also applicable as necessary.

Following collaboration with Government partners such as the Ministry of Health, Department of Environmental Health, private sector stakeholders, and principles of international health entities such as the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) (formerly Public Health England), these standards of practice have been developed to establish industry guidelines for sanitization.

Each operator is responsible for ensuring that current regulations and legislation of the Cayman Islands Public Health Law regarding the prevention, control, suppression, and management of COVID-19 are adhered to. Please verify the most current laws and regulations with official Government sources. This document is in addition to the public health policy and guidelines, is created to support the “Readiness Plan” for Phase 4 implementation, and should be reviewed and revised upon the implementation of new phases in the future.

Recommended Guidelines for all dive operators in the Cayman Islands

1. An official COVID-19 sanitization, health, and safety policy should be created by tour operators. Information on how to draft your own policy can be found here: <https://www.visitcaymanislands.com/en-us/ourcayman/sanitization-guidelines>.
 2. All staff members should be trained with regard to this official policy and any new protocols that will be put in place by the establishment.
 3. All Dive Operators will adhere to official guidelines with regards to personal protective equipment (PPE) as outlined by the Cayman Islands Government (CIG).
 4. Any new protocols that are established by the CIG will be adhered to, as necessary.
 5. Testing of employees as required by the CIG.
 6. Additional information can be found at www.gov.ky or email sanitization@caymanislands.ky.
- For more information on the National Policy: [NATIONAL POLICES LFT](#)

At all times for all parties involved (Staff and Guests)

This guidance document is based on CARPHA (2020). Caribbean Public Health Agency Technical Guidance for Tourism: Guidelines and Checklists for Reopening of Caribbean Tourism and Travel (Sites and Attraction-Adventure Sports/Rides/Watersports) COVID-19 Series.

- Wearing face coverings is highly encouraged whenever possible
- Sanitise/wash hands frequently
- Practice physical distancing and avoid congregating whenever possible
- If feeling unwell and/or displaying COVID-19 symptoms, refrain from participating in social activities
- Public transport/courtesy shuttles are allowed and are subject to Public Transport Guidelines

Pre-Activity Preparation

- Where possible, administrative duties conducted digitally (waivers, cert cards, payments)
- All equipment and areas to be disinfected before use
- Face coverings must be worn inside the dive shop and other indoor spaces
- Walk-ins are encouraged to cleanse hands before moving to dive (e.g. soap and water or hand sanitisers based on layout of operation)

Onboard

- Follow current regulations in effect regarding on-board passenger capacity
- Disinfect high traffic and high touch areas frequently and between dives
- Avoid cross-contamination of individual dive gear and follow guidance for cleaning equipment
- No communal rinse buckets on-board for dive masks (not applicable for general gear)
- No use of saliva to defog dive masks or for any other reason (use defogging products instead)
- No shared food services on-board; any food must be individually packaged

Post-Activity Practices

- Disinfect all equipment and areas
- Maintain detailed log of cleaning and disinfection protocols

Gear

- All dive and snorkel gear will be soaked in a bleach-based disinfectant solution or its equivalent, then rinsed with fresh water (*please refer to Divers Alert Network [DAN] for disinfection standards*)
- Rental gear must not be reused on the same day and must be disinfected following approved protocols

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