

Bear Boating of WBL

2022 COVID-19 Preparedness Plan

The health and safety of the Guests and Crew of Bear Boating is our highest priority. This plan is developed to put in place measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19 while continuing to provide an enjoyable boating experience for Guests and Crew.

This COVID-19 Preparedness Plan is administered by the Bear Boating Board, who maintains the overall authority and responsibility for the plan. Guests and Crew are all responsible for implementing this plan. Crew members have full support of the Board to enforce the provisions of this plan.

The measures in this plan shall be consistent with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance as well as Federal and State of Minnesota guidance and regulations regarding safety during the COVID-19 pandemic. Recognizing that this guidance and these regulations change with the incidence of COVID-19 cases in our country and state, this plan must be fluid as well as risk-based. This plan may be changed during the season by a simple majority vote of the Bear Boating Board. This vote may be held via email.

This Plan does not apply to Manitou Days Community Boat Rides.

I. GENERAL

The 2022 Season for Bear Boating will be made possible with the acceptance, training, and conscientious execution of this Plan. Training for Crew will include the Bear Boating of WBL 2022 COVID-19 Preparedness Plan and their responsibilities with regard to this plan.

Based on revised guidance by the CDC and lower numbers of COVID-19 cases in Minnesota, the Bear Boating Board has approved changes to the 2021 COVID-19 Preparedness Plan for the 2022 season. These changes are reflected in the following sections of this document:

1. **VI FACE MASKS/COVERINGS:** Masking for Guests and Crew is at their discretion. The statement that Crew would mask during the trip at the request of the Facility/Group has been removed.
2. **VII PHYSICAL DISTANCING:** The maximum number of Guests is increased from 6 to 8 and the maximum number of Crew is increased from 3 to 4. Fishing Trips may be reinstated during the 2022 season; the timing of this is still to be determined.
3. **VIII FOOD AND DRINK:** Guests and Crew may bring food and non-alcoholic drinks onboard the pontoon.

II. DEFINITIONS

The following terms used in this document are defined as follows:

- **Guest:** Any resident or staff member from a senior living or care center facility who boards the Bear Boating Pontoon. If the scheduling facility is not a senior living or care center facility, referred to as Group, the term Guest applies to anyone who boards the Bear Boating pontoon who is not a Bear Boating volunteer.
- **Crew:** Bear Boating volunteers, including Captains, Mates, and any volunteers who board the Bear Boating pontoon for purposes such as trips, replenishing supplies, cleaning.
- **Facility/Group:** The senior living or care center Facility or other Group who schedules a trip on the Bear Boating pontoon.
- **Facility/Group Contact:** The individual from a scheduling Facility or Group responsible for Guests complying with the POLICIES and PROTOCOLS in this Preparedness Plan.
- **Scheduler:** The Bear Boating volunteer responsible for ensuring that Crew members are available for scheduled trips.
- **Head Captain:** The Bear Boating volunteer responsible for the volunteer Captains.

III. COVID-19 VACCINATION

POLICY: All Guests and Crew must be fully vaccinated for COVID-19 before boarding the Bear Boating pontoon.

As defined by the CDC, people are considered fully vaccinated:

- 2 weeks after their second dose in a 2-dose series, such as the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines, or
- 2 weeks after a single-dose vaccine, such as Johnson & Johnson's Janssen vaccine.

PROTOCOL:

Paperwork required for Facilities/Groups will be updated to include verification that all Guests have been fully vaccinated for COVID-19: Guest Boarding Pass, Release of Liability, and Photo Approval.

Crew members must provide a copy of their COVID-19 vaccination card with their Volunteer Application Form before they will be permitted to schedule a trip. A Crew member who provided a copy in 2021 does not have to do so again. Copies of the Crew COVID-19 vaccination cards will be kept on file in the Bear Boating records.

IV. COVID-19 MONITORING OF GUESTS

POLICY: The Facility/Group Contact will be responsible for monitoring potential COVID-19 symptoms, testing, and exposure for Guests who will be onboard the Bear Boating pontoon. Monitoring must be in accordance with State of Minnesota and CDC guidelines.

PROTOCOL:

This screening shall be performed before the Guests are transported to the dock.

The Facility/Group Contact will sign a form indicating that this screening has been performed and that all Guests who will be boarding the pontoon are free from COVID-19 symptoms, exposure and positive testing. Paperwork required for Facilities will be updated to accommodate this: *Guest Boarding Pass, Release of Liability, and Photo Approval.*

Guests who cannot meet monitoring thresholds will not be allowed onboard.

If following a Bear Boating trip, a Guest develops COVID-19, COVID-19 symptoms, or determines that they had exposure to a person with confirmed COVID-19, the Facility/Group Contact must immediately notify Bear Boating Scheduler by phone. Bear Boating Scheduler will notify Crew members. Each Crew member is responsible for notifying others who may be impacted.

V. COVID-19 MONITORING OF CREW

POLICY: Crew members will be responsible for monitoring their own symptoms and exposure. A *COVID-19 Self-Monitoring Checklist* will be provided for this purpose.

PROTOCOL:

Crew self-screening will be done before leaving their current location (e.g. home, work) to travel to the pontoon. If possible, screening shall be completed 90 minutes prior to the scheduled time for their shift. The 90 minutes allows time to replace the Crew member for the boat trip.

Additionally, the trip Captain will orally ask the Mates the questions on the *COVID-19 Self-Monitoring Checklist* before they board the pontoon. The Captains Checklist was revised in 2021 to contain this item.

If a Crew member answers any item(s) on the COVID-19 Checklist with a YES, the Crew member must follow the actions set out below, which vary depending on the item(s) answered YES.

The COVID-19 Self-Monitoring Checklist contains 3 sections: Symptoms, Exposure to someone with COVID-19, and Positive COVID-19 Test. The action of the Crew member depends on the section(s) containing a YES answer.

YES to Symptoms:

- The Crew member must not participate in-person in any Bear Boating trip or activity, until:
 - it has been ten (10) days from when their symptoms first appeared **and**
 - they have had no fever for 24 hours without the use of medications **and**
 - their other symptoms of COVID-19 are improving* (*Loss of taste and smell may persist for weeks or months after recovery and need not delay the end of isolation).
- Mates must call the Captain(s) of all trips that they are scheduled on that day so that an alternate Mate can be assigned.
- Captains must call the Head Captain so that an alternate Captain can be assigned.
- If the Crew member will miss future trip shift(s), notify the Scheduler who will be responsible for finding replacements.

YES to Exposure to someone with COVID-19:

If fully vaccinated and shows **no** symptoms of COVID-19:

- Bear Boating trips and activities may proceed as scheduled.
- Notify the Scheduler about this exposure; the Scheduler will notify other Crew members and Facilities/Groups.

If fully vaccinated and shows symptoms of COVID-19:

- Follow the protocol under YES to Symptoms.
- Notify the Scheduler about this exposure; the Scheduler will notify other Crew members and Facilities/Groups.

Yes to a Positive COVID-19 Test:

If have/have had no symptoms, the Crew member:

- Must wait ten (10) days after a positive viral test for COVID-19 before in-person participation in any Bear Boating trip or activity.
- If scheduled for a trip that day, Mates must call the Captain(s) of all trips that they are scheduled on that day so that an alternate Mate can be assigned.
- If scheduled for a trip that day, Captains must call the Head Captain so that an alternate Captain can be assigned.
- If the Crew member will miss future trip shift(s), notify the Scheduler who will be responsible for finding replacements.
- Notify the Scheduler about the positive COVID-19 Test result; the Scheduler will notify other Crew members and Facilities/Groups.

If have symptoms:

- Follow the protocol under YES to Symptoms.
- Notify the Scheduler about the positive COVID-19 Test result; the Scheduler will notify other Crew members and Facilities/Groups.

VI. FACE MASKS/COVERINGS

POLICY: Masking for Guests and Crew is at their discretion.

VII. PHYSICAL DISTANCING

POLICY: The number of Guests and Crew will be limited to avoid overcrowding on the pontoon.

PROTOCOL:

A maximum of 8 Guests is allowed on the Bear Boating pontoon. For Facilities, per Bear Boating protocols, at least one of these Guests must be a staff member. For Groups, one of these Guests must be designated the Group Contact.

A maximum of 4 Crew is allowed on the Bear Boating pontoon. Per Bear Boating protocols, at least one of these Crew members must be a Captain.

Fishing Trips may be reinstated during the 2022 season; the timing of this is still to be determined.

Crew activities in close proximity to another person will be allowed outside and on the pontoon that are less than 15 minutes in duration. Examples include:

- Preparing pontoon for trip and returning pontoon to boat slip and covering
- Meeting Guests at the dock
- Assisting Guests with Personal Floatation Devices (PFD)
- Escorting Guests on ramp and onto pontoon
- Handing Guests pens, tissues, paper towels, blankets or sealed bottles of water
- Providing Guests with hand sanitizer
- Collecting donations

Pre-season:

- Dry land training will be conducted virtually for experienced volunteers.
- On-the-water training will follow the Policies and Protocols outlined in this Plan. The addition of a 4th Crew member will allow new volunteers to complete on-the-water training.

VIII. FOOD AND DRINK

POLICY: Guests and Crew may bring food or Non alcoholic drink onboard the pontoon.

PROTOCOL:

- Facilities/Groups and Crew who choose to bring food and drinks onboard are responsible for distribution of food/drink and for removal of remaining food, drink, and packaging waste from the pontoon.
- Bear Boating will provide, as needed, sealed bottles of room temperature water for Crew and Guests.
- No ice will be available onboard.

IX. BOAT SANITATION

POLICY: Crew will follow the protocol in this Plan for disinfecting the boat surfaces and equipment.

PROTOCOL:

At the end of each trip, including the last trip of the day, Crew members will wipe down non-porous surfaces that are touched by Guests or Crew. These include, but are not limited to, handles, bars, seats, and boat operational equipment such as steering mechanisms. Bear Boating will provide disinfecting

wipes for non-porous surfaces that have a short effectiveness drying time, i.e. seconds rather than minutes. The disinfecting wipes provided will be among those included on the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) List N: Disinfectants for Coronavirus (COVID-19).

Before and after handling the ramp, ropes, cover, and poles, Crew members will use a Federal Drug Administration (FDA) approved hand sanitizer. Disposable gloves will be provided for Crew members who prefer gloves to hand sanitizer. Use hand sanitizer on gloves too.

PFDs for Guests and Crew will not be reused until cleaned with an EPA approved disinfectant or until aired for at least 24 hours.