

**CONDITIONAL RETURN TO ESSENTIAL SCIENTIFIC and COMMERCIAL DIVING  
ACTIVITIES UNDER FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY AUSPICES**

ORED approved, essential research or commercial diving activities must follow these specific COVID-19 conditions designed to reduce the risk of infection:

- A dive plan must be submitted to the Diving Safety Officer (DSO).
- For scientific dives, the plan approved by the DSO must be sent to the Diving Control Board, along with an explanation about why this activity should be considered “Essential Research.” After review, the DCB board will forward the dive plan and the reasons that the activity should be considered as essential, along with their recommendation to the Office of Research and Economic Development (ORED) for consideration of classifying the proposed activity as essential. No scientific diving will be done before ORED approves of the activity as essential.
- All members of the dive team must be willing to participate.
- No member of the dive team will participate if they are symptomatic or feeling ill, or if any member of their family is experiencing flu like symptoms.
- All dive team members will be medically cleared to dive during COVID-19 restrictions in accordance with FIU’s **“Return to Diving Medical Questionnaire”**.
- All dive team members will take their temperature or complete the Panthers Protecting Panthers (3P app) COVID-19 questionnaire prior to the work day. Any person with a temperature above 99 degrees should be cleared by a physician before participation.
- Personnel will adhere to 6-foot minimum distance from other people whenever possible.
- Dive team members will wear a face covering of a material approved by FIU / CDC for non-medical personnel, while mobilizing or on a vessel whenever social distancing is not possible.
- All personnel will wear latex gloves during the diving operation when personnel must come in contact with multiple common touchpoints (examples: Carrying SCUBA cylinders while loading the vessel or assisting another person when necessary)
- ORED approved diving activities must also comply with current FIU COVID-19 boating restrictions.
- Diving equipment may not be shared between dive team members.
- Common touch points must be disinfected often, throughout the diving operation.

- Each dive team member will don and doff their own diving equipment without assistance nor contact from another team member (unless necessary).
- The Diving Supervisor or dive team leader will conduct pre-dive checks (Buddy Checks) on each individual diver, without any “hands on” contact, and at least 6 feet away from the diver.
- Divers will enter and exit the water one at a time and not as a team.
- All personnel will wash their hands each time gloves are donned and doffed and at the completion of the operation according to CDC guidelines.
- When the vessel used for the diving operations returns to the dock, all common touch points, cabins, helm wheel etc... will be disinfected. All dive equipment must also be properly disinfected. Recommended disinfectants for diving equipment approved by EPA / CDC to be effective against COVID-19 are:
  1. SaniZide Pro-1 for hard surfaces (Use as directed)
  2. Sanizide Pro for porous surfaces (Use as directed)
  3. Bleach / Sodium Hypochlorite (Contact time varies between manufacturers)

If you have any questions, please contact the FIU Diving Safety Officer, Roger Garcia at [garcirog@fiu.edu](mailto:garcirog@fiu.edu).

- Ref: (a) OSHA Doc 3990-03 2020  
(b) CDC COVID-19 Guidelines for the Workplace  
(c) AAUS Draft Best Practices Doc  
(d) ADCI  
(e) Kirby Morgan / Dive Lab  
(f) CDC List “N” of Approved Disinfectants  
(g) FIU “Return to Diving Medical Questionnaire”  
(h) 2020-0412 Position of the BVOOG  
(i) UC San Diego Guidelines for Medically Evaluating Divers Post COVID-19 Recovery  
(j) SaniZide Pro-I Disinfectant Sell-Sheet  
(k) SaniZide Pro Disinfectant Sell-Sheet