

Best Practices in Marina Operations

During the Reopening of the Economy

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Produced by

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**MARINA
INDUSTRIES**

In Partnership with



Background – The importance of planning

As states lift restrictions on business, many states will not offer guidance on marina operations. It will be the responsibility of individual companies to develop a plan and show rule-makers how you are planning to keep your employees and customers safe and healthy this boating season.

We will have a boating season, and marinas will be an essential part of the recreational boating experience. AMI has put together, in partnership with Fisher Phillips Safety Solutions, this short guidance document. Here we discuss areas of the marina, yacht club, and boatyard you might want to think about and alter if you cannot maintain the health and safety of your employees and customers under normal circumstances.

This document does not take the place of creating your own marina operations plan for the summer of 2020.

This a free resource provided by the Association of Marina Industries (AMI) for the benefit of the marine industry. If you are interested in learning the other services and products AMI has to offer, including our professional training and annual conference, please visit www.MarinaAssociation.org.

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Cleaning and sanitizing bathrooms, worksurfaces, high touch areas

Enhanced cleaning practices

As a best practice, common areas should be cleaned at least once daily. Increased traffic in the facility may warrant increasing the cleaning schedule to twice daily. The Center for Disease Control (CDC) has issued guidance related to [cleaning and disinfecting community facilities](#). Additionally, the CDC has provided a [list of products](#) that are best suited for killing the virus. (Source: Fisher Phillips)

It is important to note that employers introducing enhanced cleaning procedures must be sure to develop policies for worker protection and provide training to the staff. Training must include a review of when Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is required, what PPE is necessary, and how to put on, take off, and properly dispose of PPE. Communication Standard and Occupational Safety and Health Administrations' (OSHA) Blood Borne Pathogen Standard.

Other than common areas, are there other areas I should clean at a marina?

In terms of sanitation efforts, areas of emphasis should include:

- Office areas: OSHA's Blood Borne Pathogen Standard— desktops, phones, computers, chairs, door handles
- Ship store: door handles, countertops, phones, computers
- Docks: gates, PIN pads, card readers, handles
- Fuel dock: fuel pump nozzle, PIN pads

How do I sanitize a pumpout? Should my pumpout operations change?

As a best practice, where feasible, establish a process to pump out by appointment. Sanitize the pumpout system by inserting the pumpout nozzle with an open valve in a bucket with bleach solution for 15 seconds. Soak any additional pumpout fittings in bleach solution for 10 minutes. Bleach solution should be mixed 1 cup of bleach to 1 gallon of water.

Marina Operations

Do I need to restrict access to my marina?

As a best practice, while under stay-at-home orders, yards at marinas and yacht clubs should remain secure so that admittance can be monitored by the owners/operators. In the event a vessel owner or other persons wish to work on their vessel, they should be cautioned about social distancing and monitored to ensure no groups form. This is important to protect your employees as well.

Follow any local stay-at-home orders.

As different states lift stay-at-home orders and relieve restrictions on businesses, these guidelines will change. It is best to think about how your operations will change as restrictions lift.

Do my spring boat launch operations need to change? What are some best practices?

Spring launch will be relatively unaffected, assuming employees with COVID-19 symptoms do not report for work. Since the activity is outside and limited to a small group, the risk is low. When possible, encourage employees to maintain physical distancing. In addition, recommend two options:

- 1) Have a designated equipment operator, so only one person is touching controls, or
- 2) Use sanitizing wipes on controls with each operator change or at least once daily

Assisting customers at the dock

As a best practice, employees assisting at the dock should maintain social distancing while in phase one of reopening guidance.

- Instruct your dockhand to maintain a 6ft distance when possible
- Require your dockhand to have a face-covering available (bandana, cloth mask, N95 mask, or other)
- Instruct dockhands to wash their hands often and not to touch their face. They should be following standard hygienic practices regarding coughing and sneezing, utilizing the elbow.
- Provide dockhands with hand sanitizer and other means to clean and disinfect their hands.
- Have dockhands radio incoming vessels and ask if they need assistance approaching the dock (as opposed to automatically jumping in to help)
- Encourage dockhands to use mooring hooks, when applicable, rather than handing lines from the customers to the dockhand. This will help maintain social distancing.

Fuel dock operations

Fuel docks may operate but should maintain social distancing while in phase one of the reopening guidance. Fuel dock operations will require a payment process that limits interaction. Some marinas have implemented a pay-by-phone policy to limit close interaction. Some marinas have implemented self-serve fueling with supervision from the ship store or fuel dock office. In full serve operations, employees should remain socially distant from customers, use appropriate PPE, and wash hands or use hand sanitizer at the end of each transaction. A similar procedure may be implemented for pumpout operations. (Source: Fisher Phillips)

Transient Boaters

As a best practice, marinas should follow local-jurisdiction restrictions on out-of-state boaters, adhering to any restrictions or quarantines.

Boat Clubs/ Boat Rental

On April 24, the Department of Homeland Security released a study related to the life cycle of the virus on non-living surfaces. The study detailed the anticipated times the virus can survive on surfaces given variations in temperature, humidity, and exposure to sunlight. The study is great news for the marina industry, but especially for boat rentals and boat clubs.

The study concluded the virus will die in approximately two minutes at a temperature above 70 degrees Fahrenheit with relative humidity at 80% and direct exposure to sunlight. Based on the study, the possibility of spreading the virus by rental boat or equipment is unlikely when the ambient conditions are present.

As a best practice, while in phase one of the reopening guidance, boat rentals should be limited to once a day. Upon return to the marina, the boat should be returned to slip and, for lack of a better term, quarantined for the remainder of the day. The boat should be cleaned as normal before the next rental. Items such as life jackets should be left to air out or exposed to sunlight where possible.

Increased temperature, humidity, and sunlight are detrimental to SARS-CoV-2 in saliva droplets on surfaces and in the air				
CONDITION	Temp	Humidity	Solar	HALF LIFE
Surface	70-75°F	20%	None	18 hours
Surface	70-75°F	80%	None	6 hours
Surface	95°F	80%	None	1 hour
Surface	70-75°F	80%	Summer	2 minutes
Aerosol	70-75°F	20%	None	~60 minutes
Aerosol	70-75°F	20%	Summer	~1.5 minutes

Source: www.dhs.gov

Boat Service

These are some guidelines to follow when performing boat service.

- Technicians can work solo on a unit without the customer or others nearby.
- If a technician needs physical help completing a task, other dealership team members can wear disposable gloves and N95 face masks to protect both employees.
- All workspaces should be cleaned and disinfected before and after an employee performs service.
- Technicians should use their own bins or carts to move parts and tools to and from the boat. If an employee is finished using a cart, then it and any tools used should be disinfected.
- Communicate with the customer using technology rather than in-person conversations—i.e., emails, text messages, phone calls, and video calls (like Zoom or FaceTime).

Swimming Pools

As a best practice, swimming pools should remain closed until the local jurisdiction indicates the implementation of phase three of the reopening process. The CDC issued guidance that suggests Coronaviruses on surfaces naturally die in hours to days in typical indoor and outdoor environments. Viruses are killed more quickly by warmer temperatures and sunlight. In terms of shared furnishings, a daily spray with a bleach solution and exposure to sunlight may be appropriate while in phase one or phase two of the reopening guidance. Common areas should be cleaned daily.

Launch Vessel/Water Taxi Operations

It is up to your local jurisdiction on your vessel can operate. In many cases, your water taxi operations could be considered essential. However, if your vessel does operate, please take into consideration the following: your operations may need to change to protect your staff and customers:

- Your captain should maintain a socially safe distance from passengers. This may mean limiting the number of passengers allowed on your vessel and taking more trips.
- If a social distance cannot be maintained, your vessel operator should be equipped with the proper PPE, including a face covering (such as an N95 mask) and gloves. Provide them with hand sanitizer.
- See the section on “Boat Club and Rental Operations” on the need for disinfecting vessels operating in sunlight. A recent publication suggests sanitizing your launch vessel may only be needed under certain environmental conditions. That said, have a plan and resources available for your captain to regularly disinfect the vessel.
- Require passengers utilizing the vessel to wear PPE, facemasks, and gloves.
- Provide safe boating materials, including encouraging customers to wash their hands, not touch their face, and pack and use hand sanitizer.
- Other items to think about:
 - 1) If your marina can accommodate additional traffic on the dock (keeping in mind socially distant practices), it may be a good idea to only allow one or two members of a family on the launch at a time to bring the vessel to the dock. Provide dock space for the family to load. Think about how you can encourage social distance practices.
 - 2) Encourage electric forms of tipping, so that your launch operator does not have to collect “dirty” money.

Disclaimer

Please check with your local authorities on rules, regulations, and guidance about social distancing in and around your marinas. This document is for informational purposes only, is not undertaking to provide specific professional advice, and assumes no liability or responsibility in connection with the use or misuse of the resources or information included.

The best way to stay safe is to follow the recommended [CDC guidelines](#).

Additional Resources

[Center for Disease Control](#) (CDC)

[Occupation Safety and Health Administration](#) (OSHA)

[CDC Environmental Cleaning and Disinfecting Recommendations](#)

[List of cleaners and disinfectants](#)

[MRAA Resources for Marine Dealers](#)

[NMMA Resources for Manufacturerers](#)

[More from Fisher Phillips Safety Solutions](#)

Fisher Phillips Safety Solutions is offering a customized Marina COVID-19 Operational Plan. The plan will cover the following topics:

- Classifying Worker Exposure
- OSHA & CDC Preventative Guidance
- PPE
- Training Requirements
- Facility Access
- Cleaning & Sanitizing Procedures
- Medical Screening Procedures
- Subcontractor/ Tenant Responsibility
- Protocol for Customers
- Protocol for Staff
- Approved Disinfectants

The plan is customized to meet the requirements of local regulations and according to services provided in the marina. For more information, please contact Robert Smith at rsmith@fpsafety.com or by phone at (757) 589-5391.

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