



COVID-19 Summer Sailing Protocols

TS Playfair

Introduction

Brigs Youth Sail Training is committed to operating safely during the pandemic. We will be implementing enhanced health and safety measures, while maintaining the high standards of sail training and experiential learning that we have delivered over our 60-plus years of history.

Upon consultation with Hamilton Public Health, the Ontario Camp Association, Tall Ships Canada, and Transport Canada, we have devised a 3-pronged approach to minimizing the risk of COVID-19 on the TS Playfair this season. These are described in the following prevention, detection, and response protocols.

Prevention Protocol

Pre-Voyage

To mitigate the risk of anyone arriving on the vessel with COVID-19, we are introducing the following pre-voyage safety protocols:

1. The online final registration form is due 2 weeks before your course starts. This form includes questions on immunization history, ongoing health conditions, notable historical medical conditions, and consent forms to give Brigs staff permission to test and treat suspected cases of COVID-19 onboard. It is vital that our Captain and Program Coordinator has this information in advance of the course.
2. Pre-voyage prevention.
 - a. To ensure that no-one is arriving to the vessel carrying the virus, we recommend that participants avoid unnecessary contact outside their household, and avoid international travel for 2 weeks prior to the first day of their course.
 - b. If it is absolutely necessary for the trainee to leave their residence during the two weeks prior to their course, they will be expected to follow their local health unit's guidance which includes: wearing a mask, maintaining social distancing, avoiding touching their faces, and washing their hands thoroughly upon return.
 - c. A few days before your scheduled course, you will receive an on-line questionnaire about the trainee's possible exposure and symptoms. It is important to answer the questions truthfully so that we can make decisions on a case-by-case basis in the best



interest of all participants. An unfavourable answer will not necessarily disqualify the trainee from attending.

3. Pre-Voyage COVID-19 Testing
 - a. We require that all trainees and crew members get a COVID-19 PCR test within 72 hours prior to the first day of their course. Please contact the Program Coordinator if you need assistance finding a testing facility in your area.
 - b. After taking the COVID-19 test, you are required to quarantine until you arrive at the vessel or pick-up location.
 - c. Please send a copy of your COVID-19 test results to office@brigs.ca, and bring a hard copy on your first day.
4. Arrival to Vessel or Pick-up Location
 - a. Upon arrival at the pick-up location, a Brigs staff member will check you in and conduct a temperature check.
 - b. Prior to arrival to the vessel, all parents/guardians, and trainees will be expected to maintain social distancing measures and wear masks.

During Voyage

1. For the most part, our day-to-day experience will be the same as in prior years, with a few changes outlined below.
 - a. Off-Vessel Activities
 - i. To maintain the bubble established at the beginning of the course, we will not be allowing trainees or crew to have shore leave anywhere where we are likely to encounter other people, such as towns. Off-vessel activities we can safely run while maintaining group isolation include:
 1. Campfires
 2. Scavenger Hunts
 3. Beach Cleanups
 4. Hikes
 - ii. While off the vessel, trainees will be required to wear masks and maintain social distancing amongst anyone not part of the vessel bubble. Upon arrival back to the vessel, trainees and crew members will be expected to disinfect their hands either with soap and water (for at least 20 seconds) or use hand sanitizer.
2. Cleaning protocols.
 - a. In a typical summer, cleaning of all spaces onboard happens 3 times a day, after every meal.
 - b. We have identified areas that will require extra cleaning to be added to the daily routine.
 - i. Wheelhouse/Coach House: At the end of each watch, it will be the responsibility of the Watch Officer coming off duty to ensure that the chart table, navigational equipment, and helm are all disinfected before being relieved from duty.
 - ii. Night Harnesses: At the end of each night watch, the Petty Officer coming off duty will ensure that every night harness has been thoroughly disinfected (wiping buckles and clips) prior to passing them off to the next watch coming on duty.
3. Onboard COVID-19 Updates

- a. The Program Coordinator and Captain will stay up-to-date on COVID-19 news and relevant findings throughout the summer.
- 4. Vessel Errands
 - a. Anyone leaving the vessel to run errands will be required to wear a mask, practice social distancing, avoid touching their face, and wash their hands thoroughly upon return.
 - b. Food shopping will be done by our cook accompanied by one other officer.
 - c. In order to limit off-vessel errands, activities will be planned and supplies will be purchased in advance.
- 5. Visitation
 - a. In order to maintain a safe “bubble” onboard, visitors will not be allowed to come onboard during a course. This includes parents and family members.
 - b. When interacting with visitors, trainees and crew will be expected to wear a mask, maintain social distance, and thoroughly wash their hands afterwards.

Detection Protocol

- 1. Daily Temperature and Symptom Check and Tracking
 - a. Each morning during breakfast, the designated Safety Officer will conduct a one-on-one symptom check with each trainee and officer and record their temperature with an infrared thermometer and inquire about any other symptoms.
 - b. Data from each check in will be recorded in the COVID binder.
 - c. The goal of taking temperatures would be to trigger a response and containment plan outlined in the next section.
- 2. Jelly Bean Test
 - a. At the end of the day, during the sunset ceremony, each trainee will be given a flavoured Jelly Bean, if they are unable to taste or smell the flavor of the Jelly Bean, we will begin the response protocol. If the trainee has any dietary restrictions, an alternative taste test will be conducted.
 - i. As loss of taste and smell is one of the early signs of COVID-19, this can help us identify cases before serious symptoms present.
- 3. Self Reporting Reminders
 - a. Trainees are encouraged to speak up if they are experiencing any unusual symptoms at any point throughout the day.
 - b. Trainees will be reminded during our sunset ceremony to tell their Petty Officer or Watch Officer if they are not feeling well.
- 4. Parental COVID-19 Status
 - a. Parents/Guardians will be required to sign a pledge stating that if, while your child is at camp, you discover that someone your child had close contact with has tested positive for COVID-19, you will notify us as soon as possible so we can properly monitor them for symptoms and comply with any test and trace requirements.

Response Protocol

In order to prevent a vessel-wide outbreak, we have developed the following protocols to isolate, test, and contain possible cases of COVID-19 amongst trainees and crew.

1. The following symptoms will trigger a response protocol:
 - a. Fever, cough, shortness of breath, chills, muscle aches & pains, headache, sore throat, loss of taste or smell, nausea, vomiting or diarrhea.
 - i. If any of these symptoms are typical for the trainee, we will discuss whether they are worse than usual or if regular medication is not working properly (e.g. allergy medications).
 - b. Additional symptoms that are not otherwise explainable (by their medical history or daily activity) or persist after 8 hours will also trigger a response protocol.
 - c. For any suspected cases, or unusual symptoms, said trainee must fill out the [Ontario COVID-19 Self-Assessment](#).
 - d. All symptoms will be recorded in the COVID binder.

The Response

1. In the event that a trainee or crew member exhibits any of the symptoms listed above, we will proceed as follows:
 - a. Isolate the individual to the Petty Officer Mess. All Petty Officers vacate to the Wardroom or Seaman's mess.
 - b. Ensure the individual is wearing a mask at all times.
 - c. Contact the local Public Health Unit for advice on options.
 - d. Reach port as soon as possible.
 - e. If rapid testing is available, test on the spot.
2. Isolation Protocol
 - a. While a suspected case is onboard, assume that all members of the crew are infected.
 - b. If the suspected covid patient needs to use the bathroom, no members of crew shall be in the same compartment as the patient. Bathroom will be cleaned immediately after by a designated crew member.
 - c. Petty Officer's mess skylight will be kept open to maintain proper ventilation, as much as is safe to do so. If possible, scuttles will be opened.
3. Testing Protocol
 - a. If testing is deemed necessary, the trainee's parent/guardian(s) will be notified as soon as the decision to test has been made.
 - b. After consultation with the local health unit, the individual will be escorted to the closest testing facility.
 - c. After testing, the trainee will remain isolated until results are received.
 - i. During this time of isolation, trainee will be given projects and activities to help keep morale up during the 24-48 hours until results are received.
 - d. At any point during the testing period, parent/guardian(s) may pick up their trainee.
4. Negative Test Result
 - a. The trainee will leave isolation and return to the crew.
5. Positive Test Result

- a. The trainee will be isolated to the Petty Officer's mess until their parent/guardian(s) can pick them up (as soon as possible to limit exposure to the rest of the ship).
 - b. In order to prevent the spread of the virus, parents will be expected to pick up their trainee and return straight home.
 - c. All other trainees and crew will be monitored closely for symptoms. If possible, everyone will be rapid tested.
6. Isolation Sanitization
- a. At least 24 hours after the infected trainee leaves the isolation, the Petty Officer's mess will be fully cleaned and sanitized by a crew member wearing a mask.

Summary

The prevention, detection, and response protocols outlined above have been put in place to ensure the safety of our trainees, officers, staff, and the local communities we sail to. By collectively abiding by these protocols, Brigs hopes to run a successful and memorable summer for all.

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to us at office@brigs.ca or (416) 596-7117.

<p>Approved 6th April 2021</p>  <p>Francis Clegg President, Board of Directors Brigs Youth Sail Training</p>	<p>Approved 6th April 2021</p>  <p>Emily Hine Program Coordinator Brigs Youth Sail Training</p>
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