

## Yacht Charter: CoronaVirus-19, coping aboard a yacht!

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This simple and easy to read document is purely an advisory text, outlining some of the many and varied CV-19 advice directions available worldwide in a “yacht charter context”. It is purely our own “SCI interpretation” and should not be read as any “legal nor official” document. All clients are **strongly advised to inform themselves** about CV-19 and how to protect against it, using the many official and legal, governmental and non-governmental advisory sources available for their nationalities and for the countries to which they would be travelling.

### Coping on a yacht charter during the time of Corona Virus 19.

So, your charter is booked, your travel arrangements to the base marina are in place and you are almost ready to set off! What else should you consider about your yacht charter and your charter sailing companions while aboard?

Being aboard a charter yacht is, by its very nature, a close environment, even if you may have a “single cabin allocation”. Invariably all crew will mix on and through the whole yacht, especially in the saloon and cockpit during everyday life on board. Potentially you may also mix while on land, outside of the safety of your yacht “support bubble” at marina overnight stops during your charter week – you must especially take care during these times.

Like other close-contact environments, charter yachts can easily facilitate the transmission of respiratory viruses from **person to person** through exposure to respiratory droplets in the air or **contact with contaminated surfaces**.

While on board ALL crew companions form a “support bubble” of **TRUST!**

- You all **TRUST** that no-one has CV-19 prior to arriving on board.
- You all **TRUST** that during the charter, everyone will take the utmost care not to catch it when on land.

### How is it spread:

Direct person-to-person spreading is the most frequent path of infection with coronavirus SARS-CoV-2, however, also indirect surface-to-person spreading is also possible.

Direct and/or indirect contagion can be caused via:

- Mucus and saliva
- Urine and faeces
- Body fluids

So what is the advice to follow when aboard a yacht charter.

### Prior to travel (be symptom aware and take care):

All crew companions should routinely be monitoring yourselves and taking care before travel. Be especially aware of your **temperature** before travel and carefully consider your **taste/smell** sensations. Symptoms of the Covid-19 disease include fever, shortness of breath, coughing, sore throat, diarrhoea and a sudden loss of taste and smell.

Even if you don’t immediately develop the more obvious coughing or shortness of breath, or any of the other documented symptoms of CV-19; a **high temperature/fever** and an **immediate loss of taste/smell** are both especially indicative of possible CV-19 infection.



If you do exhibit any of these symptoms before travel, you must go for a CV-19 test; if it is positive, you must **NOT travel**, you must **self-isolate** for a minimum of **two weeks** and you **must seek medical advice**.

## HOW CAN I PROTECT MYSELF AGAINST CORONAVIRUS?

As with seasonal influenza, the following measures are recommended:

- Wash your hands several times a day with soap and water or an alcohol-based hand disinfectant.
- Turn away from other persons near you if you need to cough or sneeze.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a paper tissue or the crook of your arm whenever you do cough or sneeze.
- Do NOT cover your mouth and nose with your hands whenever you cough or sneeze.
- If you use a paper tissue, do NOT re-use it, dispose of it promptly by throwing them in the trash (NOT wastepaper recycling) and then wash/disinfect your hands.
- Avoid direct contact with persons who are ill, irrespective of the disease.
- Keep a safe distance away from other people and avoid large crowds of people.
- Do not shake hands.

## BEFORE YOU TRAVEL:

- Take care of yourself
- Routinely control for any symptoms
- Buy (in advance if possible) your PPE (face masks, latex gloves, disinfectant spray and soap)

## WHILE YOU TRAVEL:

While travelling down to the base marina to embark on your yacht, all crew should take extra care to protect yourselves by wearing PPE (especially masks) and regularly washing and disinfecting your hands. Whether crew travel by aeroplane, bus or car, it is your personal and collective responsibilities to take the appropriate care measures to ensure you minimize the risk of becoming infected during travel.

## ON YOUR CHARTER:

On arrival at your charter yacht, it will have been routinely and especially “deep” cleaned and disinfected; then while on board skippers and crew must develop strategies/rotations etc, to continue the frequent cleaning of commonly touched surfaces in shared yacht areas.

- Take **care of yourself** and of your **companions** in your “support bubble crew”.
- Routinely control for any **symptoms**
- Take & Wear your **PPE** (face masks, latex gloves, disinfectant spray) **whenever you go on land**
- **Do NOT mix with other people** (outside of your yacht crew) when you are on land – **stay apart!**
- Regularly **wash** and **disinfect** your hands
- Avoid **touching** your face, eyes, nose, mouth
- Regularly **wash and disinfect** (wipe down) all areas of the yacht, especially grab-rails and any parts where everyone is more likely to touch.
- Only use your **own ensuite heads**; if you share, **clean regularly** both after yourself AND as a part of the shared cleaning rota.
- If you do start symptoms, immediately put on **PPE**, **tell your skipper** and **isolate** in your cabin (further instructions will be given directly).

## REMEMBER:

Sailing on a yacht charter is now considered to be one of the **safest holidays available** due to the limited contact with people outside of your on board “support bubble crew” ; BUT **the yacht’s safety is only as good as the behaviour and care of those on board.**

***Take Care – Stay Safe – Don’t Catch and Don’t Spread the Virus !!!***

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