



## **COVID-19 Guidance for people sailing on board *Prolific* plus parents / carers / guardians / group organisers**

We are very much looking forward to seeing you on board *Prolific* this year, and we want to make our voyages as welcoming, fun and friendly as they would be in any other year.

However, one of our top priorities this year has to be keeping everyone as safe as possible from Covid-19.

**This document is designed to explain the following:**

- **Precautions which will be taken to minimise the risk of bringing infection on board**
- **Procedures which will be followed if we have any concerns about infection during a voyage**
- **Some changes to normal routines and practices during our voyages**

**This includes some things which you MUST agree to before sailing and which will be a condition of booking in 2021.**

### **Before joining the boat**

You **MUST** do two Covid tests (which may be a rapid lateral flow test using a home test kit) before joining a voyage:

- Test 1: Three to four days before sailing
- Test 2: On the day of the voyage, before travelling to the boat

Both of these tests must be negative for you to sail with us. If one or both is positive, please read Appendix 1 for your options.

You can get packs of free rapid lateral flow home tests here:

<https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>.

### **Travel to the boat**

Please plan your journey to the boat in a way that minimises your risk of picking up infection during the journey. [Covid travel guidance](#) is available on our website.

### **Screening on arrival**

You will be asked to wait in a specified place when you arrive.

You may **NOT** come on board *Prolific* or mix with anyone else who will be joining the voyage until a member of the OYT South team has run through the following pre-voyage screening:

23.7.2021

- Temperature check (no higher than 37.8 degrees centigrade)
- Confirmation of two negative Covid tests: the first 3-4 days before joining and the second before travelling on the day
- Confirmation that
  - You have not experienced a new continuous cough or a loss of smell and taste or a headache, runny nose or sore throat in the last 10 days.
  - No-one in your household has had any signs or symptoms of Covid-19 in the last 10 days.
  - You have not knowingly had any contact, in the last 10 days, with anyone who is confirmed Covid-19 positive.
  - You have not been told by a medical professional that you should be shielding.
  - You have not been advised by NHS Test and Trace to stay at home or isolate. (From August 16<sup>th</sup> if you are the contact of a positive case then and you have had two vaccinations or are under the age 18 then you do not need to self-isolate but you are advised to get a PCR test as soon as possible).
  - You are not required to self-isolate for travel-related reasons
  - You or your parents or guardians have made arrangements so that there will be someone available 24/7 to collect you from the boat as quickly as possible if you develop Covid-19 symptoms during the voyage or if someone on board tests positive for Covid-19.

You should not travel to the boat if you cannot meet all these requirements.

**If you are unable to meet all the requirements of the pre-voyage screening, you may NOT join the voyage and any voyage fees paid will be refunded in full. OYT South will not be liable for costs incurred other than voyage fees (e.g. travel costs).**

## What to bring

There is a [kit list](#) available on our website, and it is also included in the crew handbook which will be sent to you before the voyage.

Particularly for those clients who have sailed with us before, we would ask you to note some changes due to Covid-19:

- We are no longer able to provide duvets and pillows on board. You should bring your own pillow, and either a sleeping bag, or a single duvet plus a single sheet.
- Please bring face coverings\* and hand sanitiser
- Opportunities for showers may be more limited than usual: marina or port facilities may not necessarily be open, or we may not have permission to use them, as *Prolific* carries a relatively large number of people. We advise people to bring a flannel or wet wipes.
- Please bring your own water bottle
- OYT South provides waterproof clothing and lifejackets; but for this season we have a complete spare set: after each voyage, personal equipment that has been in use will be quarantined and the other set will be used for the next crew.

\* Face coverings are no longer required by law. However, we may decide to use face coverings in enclosed and crowded places; where there is poor ventilation or when in close contact with others we do not normally meet. They must be used if someone on board tests positive. You must advise us in advance if you are exempt from wearing a face covering.

## Visiting overseas ports

Please note that current Covid-safe protocols mean that we will not sail to foreign ports so that we do not run the risk of being caught up in a Covid outbreak whilst abroad. If this changes as the season goes on then we will advise people on a voyage-by-voyage basis. Additional requirements for voyages which might go overseas (e.g. to France) would be:

- Passports (and visas if required): British passports must have at least 6 months left (and be less than 10 years old) when visiting the EU. British citizens (and, of course, EU nationals) do not need visas for short visits to the EU; other nationals should check EU visa requirements.
- A Global Health Insurance Card (in case you need medical treatment abroad) - these replace the old EHIC cards and are free. If you have an EHIC card, it remains valid until it expires.

## What happens if someone develops symptoms during the voyage

***If anyone on board has a temperature above 37.8 degrees, a new continuous cough or a loss of smell or taste, or a headache, runny nose or sore throat we will:***

1. Isolate that person.
2. Carry out a rapid lateral flow test on that person.
3. Send that person home ***whether the LFD test is positive or not*** \*
4. If the LFD test is ***positive***, everyone else on board will also be sent home with advice to self-isolate (unless PHE advise otherwise). OYT South will offer rapid LFD tests to others before they leave. (From August 16th if you are the contact of a positive case then and you have had two vaccinations or are under the age 18 then you do not need to self-isolate but you are advised to get a PCR test as soon as possible.)
5. If the LFD test is ***negative***, everyone else on board will take an LFD test. If all are negative, then everyone except the person with symptoms can stay on board and the voyage continues. If anyone else tests positive, they must be isolated and the voyage brought to an end, with everyone going home.

**\* Government guidance says that anyone with symptoms must self-isolate and/or take a PCR test (which requires time to get the results). Clearly it is impossible to do this on board and this is the reason why they must go home regardless of the results of the LFD test.**

[Further details on this procedure are available here.](#)

## Consents

Participants (or a parent/carer if under 18) must consent to the following:

- I agree to doing two Covid tests (which may be the rapid home lateral flow test) before joining the voyage: one 3-4 days before sailing, and the second on the day you are due to join the boat. Both tests must be negative in order to sail.
- I agree to be temperature tested at the start of each day or at other times during the voyage at the skipper's discretion
- I am willing to be temperature-checked at any time by the Skipper or First Mate, or other person acting on their behalf.
- I agree to follow all instructions relating to Covid safety conduct on board *Prolific*, as given by the Skipper or other person on board acting on their behalf.
- I give consent for my details to be shared with the NHS Test and Trace programme and to be contacted by mobile telephone.

- I consent to being LFD tested whilst on board and I understand that if I refuse to do so I will be asked to leave the vessel
- I confirm that there will always be someone available throughout the duration of the voyage to collect me from the boat at as quickly as possible if I develop Covid-19 symptoms during the voyage or if someone else on board tests positive for Covid-19.

The signature on your booking form confirms your consent to these statements.

## **Appendix 1**

### ***If you have a positive result on either of your pre-voyage Covid tests (3-4 days before sailing, and on the day before travelling to the boat)***

Because rapid lateral flow home tests are not 100% reliable, if you get a positive test result, you may choose to do an additional PCR test (these are analysed in a laboratory rather than at home) and if this is negative, it will count instead of the positive lateral flow test.

If you have a positive lateral flow test 3-4 days before the voyage and this is followed by a negative PCR test, you should still do the second lateral flow test on the day of the voyage, before travelling to the boat, and if this is negative you may travel.

If you have a negative test 3-4 days before joining, but your test on the day is positive, you should contact OYT South to discuss next steps. A PCR test normally takes 24 hours but if it is possible to arrange for you to join the voyage late, following a negative result, we will try to do so. This may depend on the duration of the voyage and where the vessel is likely to be.

## **Links**

A much longer document covering [OYT South's Covid operating procedures is available here](#).

Information on how and why we collect, process, use and store your personal information collected as part of the pre-voyage screening is available in our [Covid-19 Privacy Notice](#).