



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 continues 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 2022.

Before joining the boat

You will be asked to confirm on joining that ***in the 10 days before sailing you have NOT:***

- a) Had any signs or symptoms of Covid-19, or tested positive for Covid-19
- b) Knowingly been in contact with anyone who has had any signs or symptoms of Covid-19, or who has tested positive for Covid-19.

If you cannot confirm both these things then you MUST contact the OYT South office (office@oytsouth.org. 02392 602278) as soon as you are aware of the problem. There is some complex government guidance on timescales for when people are at risk of being infectious, so the decision on whether you can join the voyage will depend on your specific personal circumstances plus consideration of whether anyone else booked on your voyage is particularly vulnerable.

Everyone who sails with us is recommended to have a Covid test before joining the boat, and very strongly advised to get a COVID-19 vaccination and boosters.

For group bookings: if any client chooses to ensure that all participants have a negative Covid test before sailing, please discuss this with the OYT South office and we will ensure that our staff and volunteers do likewise.

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:

- Confirmation that
 - You have not tested positive (even if asymptomatic) or had any signs or symptoms of Covid-19 in the last 10 days (temperature above 37.8 C, persistent cough, loss of taste and/or smell, headache, stuffy or runny nose, sore throat, shortness of breath, fatigue, loss of appetite, muscle ache, diarrhoea, nausea and vomiting); OR if you have had any of these symptoms, you have since had a negative Covid test. Additionally in the case of diarrhoea, nausea and vomiting, you have been symptom-free for two days before joining the boat.
 - You have not knowingly been in contact with anyone who has had any signs or symptoms of Covid-19 in the last 10 days, or who has tested positive

If you cannot confirm both these things, you MUST have contacted the OYT South office (office@oytsouth.org. 02392 602278) as soon as you became aware of the problem, and a decision will have been made about whether you can safely join the voyage, based on your specific circumstances, the likelihood of infection and whether anyone else booked on your voyage is particularly vulnerable. If it is agreed that you can safely join the voyage, this will have been confirmed to you by email; and staff on board will be aware of precisely why you have been granted an exemption from the conditions above. As part of the pre-voyage screening, you will be asked to confirm that nothing has changed.

In addition, we will ask for confirmation that:

- You have not been told by a medical professional that you should be taking additional precautions due to the risk of getting COVID -19
- You have not been advised by NHS Test and Trace to stay at home or isolate.
- 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.

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.
- Please bring your own water bottle
- If you have lateral flow test kits, please bring some (though we will also have some on board). This will enable you to test if you develop any symptoms of Covid-19 or if anyone else on board tests positive.

* 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 C, persistent cough, loss of taste and/or smell, headache, stuffy or runny nose, sore throat, shortness of breath, fatigue, loss of appetite, muscle ache, diarrhoea, nausea and vomiting (other than due to seasickness), we will:

1. Isolate that person.
2. Carry out a rapid lateral flow test on that person.
3. Send that person home if the LFT is positive. If it is negative, we will continue to test that person on a daily basis while symptoms last.
4. The voyage will continue for everyone else unless anyone wishes to go home. (Should they choose to go home there will be no refund and they must pay for their own travel costs).
5. A series of Covid-safe protocols will be put in place for the remainder of the voyage (see Appendix 6: http://www.oysouth.org/pdfs/oysouth_covid_sops_2022.pdf)
6. OYT South will offer rapid lateral flow tests to everyone before they leave (whether that is at the end of the voyage or because they choose to leave early).

Consents

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

- 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 consent to having lateral flow test on board if the Skipper considers it appropriate, 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.

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

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.](#)