

Best Practices for Outfitter Guides/Charters in a COVID environment

Pre-Trip

Contact clients

- Inquire regarding dynamics of group – household members, family members or separate individuals – to plan spacing before trip
- Instruct clients to bring their own food, water, masks, gloves, hand sanitizer, wipes
- Advise clients regarding the current status of travel away from home or in your area
- Advise clients to fill gas, and use bathrooms close to home before travelling
- Clients should be prepared to have their own vehicle shuttled to take out, if needed
- Inquire on client's health the day before trip and before boarding (fever, cough, etc.) and question their health history (positive tests or quarantine in past?)
- Discuss a meeting place and time away from launch ramp and docks if possible, to manage distancing at popular facilities

Configure your resources

- Configure your boat/raft to maximize spacing between individuals, minimize contact with guide (consider removing some seats, utilizing longer handled nets, etc. to maintain distancing). Charters - stay within the current maximum gathering allowance including crew.
- Plan for individual tackle/rod configurations, bait, and catch boxes for each client, including spares
- Place PFD's, first aid kits, safety placards, extra gloves/masks at each client's "station"
- Consider emergency bathroom facilities (porta-pot/groover) and supplies when restroom facilities are limited
- Provide for payment options other than cash (i.e. Square, Venmo, etc.) or ask for exact change in advance
- Eliminate "communal" entities such as water jugs, snack bags/bins (or provide individual boxed food/drink professionally prepared)

Guide Responsibilities

- Provide a clean, sanitary trip making all reasonable efforts to minimize transmission of virus
- Confirm you can operate safely with new safety protocol
- Utilize facilities within your currently recommended travel area (See "Pre-Trip" above)
- Convey your COVID-19 protocols and procedures to your clients in how they relate to the specific equipment/facilities being used and allow them to decide if they are willing to assume the risk of the activity. Include the information in your waivers.
- Docks should only be used to load and unload passengers. Equipment and catch can be unloaded in the parking lot

Oregon State Marine Board/ Outfitter Guide Desk

- Consider recording temperature readings for all staff daily, or follow current CDC recommendations
- Maintain a log of clients and their contact info for every trip (anticipate future contact tracing efforts)
- Check with facility management agency to ensure ramps/docks/restrooms/parking are available and develop a plan if not
- Plan for the unexpected
 - Supply extra masks, gloves, hand sanitizer, wipes, water, first aid and safety equipment
 - Equip with extra throw bags, Type IV throwable PFDs or other safety equipment to ensure you can reach them without breaching the distancing requirements
 - Consider stocking a touchless thermometer if a client shows signs/symptoms during trip

Customer Responsibilities

- If you are sick, stay at home (as well as household members travelling with you)
- Be prepared to be self-sufficient for your needs – food, medical, PPE, soap, water, etc.
- Pack in / Pack out all your own items
- Don't make last-minute changes to your plans
- Purchase your permit or ODFW license in advance through their website - have proof on hand
- Drive your own vehicle to the launch and plan your own shuttle if needed
- Ask your guide for their protocols and procedures regarding COVID-19

Day of Trip

- Wear masks and gloves whenever appropriate to minimize transmission
- Meet clients at the designated area and review distancing requirements on dock, during loading and underway (including anchoring procedures)
- Inquire on client's health before boarding (fever, cough, etc. – same as Pre-Trip procedures)
- Avoid touching communal areas without gloves – handrails, door jambs, lines, etc.
- Limit access to indoor cabin space if available (strive for 6' distancing and explain or visually mark appropriate distancing for guests)
- Do not change your plan
- Plan in advance for individual handling/cleaning each client's catch

Post Trip

- Sanitize/disinfect everything (fishing rods, seats, sides of boat, handrails and other "touch points")
- Travel directly home or to your lodging after trip
- If possible, contact clients several days after trip to check on their health and remind guests to contact you immediately if they develop any symptoms of COVID-10 within 14 days of their trip
- Request feedback from clients on your efforts to keep them safe and healthy