



Safety Measurements during the COVID-19 pandemic (May 2020)

Gear Hire (boat shed)

- Members should stay outside of the shed (at the car park). Physical distancing remains in place (no hugs, no high fives, no shaking hands) and members must stay at least 1.5 m apart from each other.
- Two/three committee members will be in charge of passing gear to anybody who is hiring, to avoid overhandling of equipment.
- **Potential hiring gear time:** 6:30-7:00 pm. **Potential returning gear time:** 7:00-7:30 pm. To control numbers, members should let the club know if they are returning or hiring gear a day before the Thursday they are intending to do so. Hiring or returning gear will not be allowed outside of the hours that we indicate, based on the amount of people expressing interest.
- Hands sanitiser will be available at the shed to make sure everyone keeps sanitising. Committee members handling gear will be wearing gloves.
- Gear that is being returned will have to be washed at the shed by the member who hired it (even if the gear has not been used or was previously washed at home). Gear will be cleaned following guidelines by PADI and DAN (<https://www.diversalertnetwork.org/emailview/landing/coronavirus/gearDisinfection/index.html>)
- Unless you live together, carpooling to hire or return gear is not permitted.
- Members are required to leave the premises as soon as they hire or return gear.
- Members must follow these guidelines at all times. Gear hire will otherwise not be allowed.

While boat diving

- Nobody boards the boat without instruction from the skipper, who will manage boarding and unboarding of both you and your equipment.
- There will be extra time for boarding and unboarding to avoid members rushing and not following safety specifications/physical distancing.
- Make sure you are feeling 100% ok before getting on the boat or going diving. If you or a person in your immediate circle develop symptoms within 28 days of you being on the boat, please contact the club.
- To keep the 1.5 m of physical distancing between divers and based on the club's boat dimensions, only 5 members, plus the skipper will be allowed on the boat (two divers seat on the port side, two on the starboard side and one at the stern).
- Hands sanitiser will be available on the boat to make sure everyone sanitises their hands before and after touching gear (even if it is their own).
- Nobody should touch other people's gear unless it is absolutely necessary.
- Spitting on masks while people are on the boat is absolutely not allowed. Defog solution will be administered by the skipper for mask cleaning.
- People are advised to bring their gear and personal belongings in a bag or tub for easier handling. Food or water sharing is not allowed.
- Carpooling to the pick-up point is not allowed, unless members live together.
- Buddy checks remain an important diving safety procedure. However, make sure you keep physical distancing and only handle your own gear when conducting a check.
- If these guidelines are not followed, the skipper and club will have the right to deny access to the boat.

While shore diving

- We encourage extra time for gearing up, to avoid members rushing and not following safety specifications/physical distancing.
- Members are required to follow the latest COVID-19 safety protocols (keep 1.5 m of physical distancing between divers at all times while being out of the water; practice correct coughing and sneezing techniques (into the crook of your elbow or using a tissue and sanitising hands afterwards); good hand hygiene).
- Members are encouraged to constantly sanitise their hands before and after touching gear (even if it is their own).
- Nobody should touch other people's gear unless it is absolutely necessary.
- We encourage members to not spit into masks while being out of the water. Consider using an alternative, such as defog solution, baby shampoo or toothpaste. If spitting is necessary, do so on the surface of the water, after everybody has jumped in and facing away from your buddies.
- Keep your mask, regs and gloves on until you are fully out of the water and can stay 1.5 m away from your dive buddies.
- Carpooling to the dive site is absolutely not endorsed, unless members live together.
- Buddy checks remain an important diving safety procedure. However, make sure you keep physical distancing and only handle your own gear when conducting a check.
- If these guidelines are not followed and respected, the club will have the right to deny gear hire.

All Dive La Trobe members are expected to follow this list of guidelines during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The club will notify when these restrictions are no longer in place. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the club committee at info@divelatrobe.org.au.