



COVID-19 TIPS FOR RESPONSIBLE RECREATION ON THE WATER

If you venture out to go boating or paddling, be flexible and adaptable to rapidly changing situations. Use good judgment. The State Parks Boating Program also recommends that you:

- **Explore waterways close to home.** You should be able to drive to a boat launch or marina and back within the same day. Leave from your home to the boat and back so you don't have unnecessary contact with others. Note that marine state parks are open only until dusk and boaters are expected to vacate park docks and mooring buoys. Make sure to plan ahead so that you can get back to your homeport safely.
- **Take time in advance to check if a boat ramp or facility is open.** And even though a ramp or marina may be open to launching, the restrooms and other amenities (e.g., pumpouts, fuel docks, etc.) may still be closed.
- **Be self-sufficient.** Carry needed supplies with you to minimize non-essential stops.
- **Follow the Governor's order on physical distancing.** Keep 6 feet of distance between you and other people and one car length between you and others at the boat launch. Take turns launching and retrieving — and be patient
- **Maintain a safe distance at a fuel dock or loading up at a marina.** Consider wearing gloves. After touching a marine gate, fuel pump or other objects frequently touched by others, wash your hands or use hand sanitizer.
- **People living in the same household** can continue to boat together.
- **The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recommends that everyone wear a face-covering in public.** Protect yourself and your family before and after your time on the water by wearing a face covering.
- **Expect some facilities to have reduced launch lanes** or alternate-space parking closures following social distancing orders to prevent crowding. If a facility has a lot of patrons and it's apparent social distancing can't be maintained, find another location or just go home.
- **Paddlers out on the water:** It's good to stick together, but unless you're all from the same household, maintain a minimum of 6 feet physical distance from others.
- **Stay home if you are sick.**
- **Wash hands frequently.**



Photo courtesy of the U.S. Coast Guard.



- **Marine law enforcement officers are actively patrolling.** Follow all statewide and local area rules for equipment, operation, and proximity. Give them a hand by **playing it safe**:
 - **Wear your life jacket**
 - Have the appropriate safety equipment on board
 - File a float plan
 - Bring two forms of emergency communication (e.g., whistle, flares, VHF radio, cell phone in a waterproof container, etc.)



For information on Washington state's response to COVID-19, visit www.coronavirus.wa.gov.

To find a pumpout station near you, visit www.PumpoutWashington.org.

For information about which state-managed lands are open and how to recreate responsibly, visit:

- PARKS: <https://parks.state.wa.us/COVID19>
- DNR: https://www.dnr.wa.gov/rec_open
- WDFW: <https://wdfw.wa.gov/about/covid-19-updates>