



COVID-19 Safety Plan

Overview

As of 15 June 2020, all workplaces will be required to have a COVID-19 Safety Plan. This includes commercial fishing vessels, which are considered a workplace under Tasmanian WHS legislation.

A COVID-19 Safety Plan must address the six minimum standards prescribed in the Work Health and Safety Regulations. The Plan will ultimately identify any risks that could lead to the spread of COVID-19 in the workplace and implement strategies to mitigate these risks.

This document provides a Model Template for a COVID-19 Safety Plan. You may need to refine this Plan to suit the specific operations of your business and / or vessel.

In this Model Template Plan:

ESSENTIAL CONTROLS	Are things you must implement in some way to comply. If you cannot achieve the essential control, you should document why not and what other controls you have in place to mitigate any identified risks.
POTENTIAL CONTROLS	Are extra things you could consider implementing to better mitigate the risk of COVID-19 in the workplace.
OTHER CONTROLS	Allows you to add any further measures you may need to implement for their specific operations or risk profile i.e. if you are in a high risk COVID-19 demographic what else will you consider.

For fishing vessels, consideration should also be given to general hygiene when transiting to and from the vessel; when launching boats at ramps and when on jetties and wharves. These risks are not directly relevant to the workplace but are relevant to general fishing operations, so should be considered.

It is also important to be aware that what you, a worker, subcontract or visitor does in their own personal time can influence the potential spread of COVID-19 in a workplace.

It is important that everyone is aware they have a Duty of Care to be responsible in their own time and to not put others (including in a workplace) at risk of COVID-19.

A WorkSafe Tasmania Inspector will have the authority to ask for your COVID-19 Safety Plan, so keep a copy (hard copy or electronic) ready. And once again, to be compliant you will need to implement the essential controls.



COVID Safe Plan for a Multi-Person, Multi Day Commercial Fishing Vessel

Business Name:

Date Completed:

Person responsible for
review and update of plan?

1. **MINIMUM STANDARD** Managing risks to health and safety (Regulation 55B)

Having multiple workers on a commercial fishing vessel over multiple days increases the risk of transfer of COVID-19 between workers.

Once at sea, a commercial fishing vessel has no additional external COVID-19 influences or risks.

A fundamental mitigating control to protect any workforce from COVID-19 is to control who boards a vessel. This is addressed in other sections of this COVID-19 Safety Plan.

ESSENTIAL CONTROL: Assess your vessel operations and identify COVID-19 risks to workers. Implement control measures to mitigate these risks (identified in other sections of this Plan) and protect workers.

2. **MINIMUM STANDARD** Cleaning and Hygiene (Regulation 55C)

Cleaning and disinfecting surfaces and good personal hygiene help prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Cleaning means physically removing germs, dirt and organic matter from surfaces.

Disinfecting means using chemicals to kill germs on surfaces. It's important to clean before disinfecting because organic matter and dirt can reduce the ability of disinfectants to kill germs.

For more information visit <https://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/covid-19-information-workplaces/cleaning-prevent-spread-covid-19>

Cleaning

ESSENTIAL CONTROL: Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces after each use, or at a suitable frequency that suits the identified risk.

ESSENTIAL CONTROL: Routinely clean and disinfect less used areas.

ESSENTIAL CONTROL: Clean touched surfaces after any new person exits the vessel.



ESSENTIAL CONTROL: Ensure appropriate cleaning practices are implemented.

POTENTIAL CONTROL: Consider displaying a cleaning schedule.

Hygiene

ESSENTIAL CONTROL: Ask all persons boarding the vessel to wash hands in soapy water or to use hand sanitiser upon Boarding and routinely during the trip.

ESSENTIAL CONTROL: Make sure soap or hand sanitiser is available at any wash stations.

ESSENTIAL CONTROL: All workers to have their own PPE (gloves, jackets, boots etc). Do not use other workers PPE.

ESSENTIAL CONTROL: Wear gloves during any unloading of catch to a third party.

ESSENTIAL CONTROL: If selling fish direct to the public, ensure appropriate hygiene when handling cash/cards.

OTHER CONTROLS FOR CLEANING AND HYGIENE:

Supplies

- Appropriate hand sanitiser / surface wipes for disinfecting hands and surfaces (use at least 60% alcohol-based products).
- Detergent/cleaning sprays and rags for cleaning surfaces.
- Disinfectant to disinfect surfaces.
- Soap for cleaning stations.
- Gloves / other PPE as required
- Inform crew of best practice use of any chemicals or cleaning products (safety data sheets)

3. **MINIMUM STANDARD** Restrictions on entry to the workplace (Regulation 55D)

There are risks associated with any workers or third parties (subcontractors, family and friends) Boarding a vessel.

ESSENTIAL CONTROL: Minimise who boards your vessel to essential workers, subcontractors or trusted persons (family).



ESSENTIAL CONTROL: If any worker, subcontractor or visitor could answer yes / show signs of any of the following, deny entry / remove from workplace.

- Do you have a cough, sore throat, runny nose, fever or in general feeling ill?
- Have you been in close contact with someone who has tested positive to COVID-19?
- Have you been asked to self-isolate for 14 days? This includes travelling from interstate to Tasmania in the last 14 days.
- Have you tested positive to COVID-19?

ESSENTIAL CONTROL: Ensure workers, subcontractors and visitors are aware of the COVID-19 controls.

POTENTIAL CONTROL: If possible, display DO NOT ENTER signage Attached on your wheelhouse door / somewhere on the vessel.

POTENTIAL CONTROL: Implement a temperature screening procedure for all people boarding the vessel. Deny vessel boarding if temperature is above 37.4°.

OTHER CONTROLS:

If any crew or someone visiting the vessel contracts COVID-19, it is important to be able to identify everyone who came into close contact with that person. Close contact is face-to-face contact for more than 15 minutes with someone who has a confirmed case of COVID-19.

ESSENTIAL CONTROL: Have a register of all persons boarding and disembarking a vessel (i.e. system to sign everyone onto the boat and off the boat). A template can be found attached.



4. **MINIMUM STANDARD** Physical distancing at the workplace (Regulation 55E)

Physical distancing on a commercial fishing vessel is in general not practicable, but when possible, you should comply.

ESSENTIAL CONTROL: When possible, ensure all persons on the vessel maintain a distance of 1.5 metres from each other.

ESSENTIAL CONTROL: When possible, do not have more persons on your vessel than 1 person for every 4-metre squared space.

ESSENTIAL CONTROL: Abide by physical distancing controls when on jetties, wharves and at boat ramps.

OTHER CONTROLS: Cleaning, disinfecting, hygiene and limiting who enters the workplace (vessel) provide alternative controls.

5. **MINIMUM STANDARD** Providing instruction, training, and supervision in respect to COVID-19 (Regulation 55F)

ESSENTIAL CONTROL: Ensure that all workers are aware of their obligations to reduce the risks posed by COVID-19. If practical:

- Put up posters on how to wash hands (Attached)
- Put up poster Protect Yourself Protect Others (Attached)
- Provide instruction on appropriate cleaning

ESSENTIAL CONTROL: If required, provide formal training or written knowledge of COVID-19 control requirements and procedures.

OTHER CONTROLS:



6. **MINIMUM STANDARD** Responding to an incident of COVID-19 in the workplace (Regulation 43)

If someone falls ill with COVID-19 related symptoms during a fishing trip:

- ESSENTIAL CONTROL: Isolate the ill person as far as reasonably possible.
- ESSENTIAL CONTROL: Thoroughly clean all vessel spaces.
- ESSENTIAL CONTROL: Once returned to shore, contact Public Health (1800 671 738) and follow their advice including the need for crew to go into 14-day isolation, getting tested for COVID-19 and cleaning the vessel to the appropriate standard.
- OTHER CONTROLS:

If someone who has been on the vessel tests positive outside a fishing trip

- ESSENTIAL CONTROL: Assist Public Health to contact all persons who boarded the vessel during the relevant timeframe of potential infection. The vessel boarding register will assist.
- ESSENTIAL CONTROL: Follow all other directions from Public Health such as the need for 14-day isolation, getting tested for COVID-19 and cleaning the vessel to the appropriate standard.
- OTHER CONTROLS:

REVIEW

Review this document when the COVID-19 situation changes or when a new risk is identified.



Do not enter this facility if you:

- Have COVID-19.
- Have been instructed to quarantine and your 14 days are not yet finished.
- Are unwell, including with fever (or night sweats/chills) or respiratory symptoms, e.g. shortness of breath, cough, sore throat.

Protecting yourself and others from coronavirus



Hand Washing Procedure



1 Wash with water and soap, ensuring the entire back and front hand surface is covered



2 Lather palms together



3 Lather between fingers



4 Focus on both front and back of thumbs

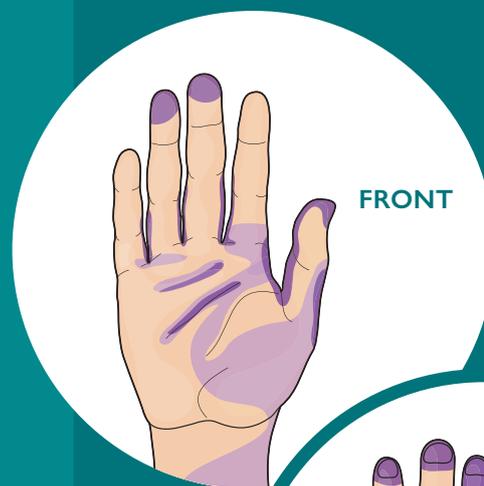


5 Make sure to reach the back of your hands



6 Lather wrists and rotate

Frequently missed spots when washing hands



FRONT



BACK

- MOST FREQUENTLY MISSED
- FREQUENTLY MISSED



Protecting yourself and others from coronavirus

Protecting Yourself from Coronavirus

Following this advice and practising hygienic respiratory etiquette can help slow the spread of COVID-19



1 Wash your hands frequently for at least 20 seconds or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer



2 Cover your cough and sneeze with your elbow or a tissue, then dispose of the tissue in a rubbish bin



3 If unwell, avoid contact with others (stay more than 1.5 metres from people)



4 Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces regularly



5 Stay home if you are feeling unwell

Practising good hand and sneeze/cough hygiene is the best defence against most viruses

Coronavirus is most likely spread from person-to-person through direct or close contact