

COVID-19: GUIDANCE ON BOATING

Following the Prime Minister's announcement on the evening of 31st October, we wish to provide harbour users with an update on our current understanding of the implications for mooring licence holders, commercial users, and visitors to Langstone Harbour.

Like all businesses, the Langstone Harbour Board is committed to protecting its staff and customers during the Covid-19 pandemic. The Government has advised that from Thursday 5th November, people will only be allowed to leave their home for very limited purposes:

- for education;
- for work, if you cannot work from home;
- for exercise and recreation outdoors;
- for medical reasons;
- to shop for food and essentials;
- to care for others.

Through the British Ports Association, British Marine and the Royal Yachting Association, we are urgently seeking clarification on the Government's definition of "recreation outdoors". In the meantime, we can confirm that based on our current understanding of the guidance, with effect from Thursday 5th November the following will apply:

- The **Harbour Office will be closed** for personal visits. Please email if you need to talk to us: admin@langstoneharbour.org.uk
- **Overnight stays away from a person's primary place of residence are not permitted** except in the limited circumstances published by Government.
- Langstone Harbour Board's **visitor moorings will be closed** until further notice.
- **Public slipways within the harbour will remain open** until further notice. **Anyone using slipways should be able to demonstrate compliance with the national restrictions** published by Government including the requirement to **minimise time spent outside your home**.
- **Mooring licence holders may periodically undertake checks of their vessels**, lines and fendering arrangements to a degree reasonably necessary to safeguard their vessel. Such checks should be kept to a reasonable minimum and the mooring licence holder must comply with Government guidance on COVID-19, including social distancing, at all times.
- **Commercial boat movements may continue as normal**, subject to operators working in compliance with Government 'Covid Secure' guidance. **Customers should check with operators for changes to timetables and other restrictions beforehand**.

This guidance may be changed once the Government provides a more complete definition of “recreation outdoors”. An update will be provided as soon as more information becomes available.

We recognise that restrictions on outdoor activity may be a source of additional worry to mooring holders. During working hours, we will therefore be undertaking periodic extra patrols and visual inspections of moorings to check that boats remain secure and that there are no obvious problems. Please note however that in carrying out this service we are unable to accept any additional liability beyond that contained in our standard Terms and Conditions.

The measures put in place by the Government during this restricted period require people to stay at home – except for limited purposes. Going out on the water may fit within the Government’s criteria for travel or exercise, however, attending public areas, slipways, marinas where other people are likely to be still poses a risk of spreading the virus. At the same time, every vessel that gets into trouble causes unnecessary contact with waterborne emergency rescue agencies which puts more people at risk and increases the strain on our emergency services. I would urge you to bear this in mind before getting out on the water during this period.

Thank you for your ongoing support. Best wishes and please stay safe.

Billy Johnson
Harbour Master
4th November 2020

TO SEE THE LATEST GOVERNMENT ADVICE ABOUT CORONAVIRUS VISIT

<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

Go to www.langstoneharbour.org.uk/boating-notice.php for a full list of
Local Notices in force.