

BACKGROUND

Boat launches and shorelines will be open to anglers on May 4, 2020. There is also a statement that parks will be open for hiking and biking.

There are not large numbers of divers in Saskatchewan compared to anglers.

We recognize that physical distancing and proper hygiene remain critical to stopping the spread of COVID-19.

GUIDELINES:

Here are the approved guidelines for safe scuba diving practices in Saskatchewan amid the pandemic:

- Transportation to and from the dive site must be in accordance with provincial guidelines.
- If diving from a boat, all passengers in the boat must live in the same household.
- If diving from shore, divers must stay at least 2 metres away from others while donning and doffing their gear.
- Once the divers are breathing from their scuba equipment (i.e. they are no longer breathing in ambient air) and their mask is on they can come closer together to submerge and the dive can proceed as normal.
- At the end of the dive, when the divers take off their mask and are once again breathing ambient air, they must stay at least 2 metres away from others.
- Following the dive, equipment should be cleaned and disinfected as recommended by Divers Alert Network
<https://www.diversalertnetwork.org/emailview/landing/coronavirus/gearDisinfection/index.html>
- A Public Health Order issued April 24, 2020 restricts travel into the Northern Administration District until further notice.
- As always, if you are feeling unwell, do not dive. If you have had COVID-19 and are recovered, check with your doctor before diving.

NOTES

- These guidelines apply only to those divers who are currently certified.
- These guidelines are not to encourage people to get out and go diving, but to provide people with a safe option if they chose to dive.
- Being as scuba gear (self-contained underwater breathing apparatus) provides the diver with “clean” air to breathe and the mask covers both the eyes and mouth, this is an outdoor activity that would result in minimal opportunity to come in contact with the virus.

- Divers have a natural tendency to physically distance when they are donning and doffing gear.