COVID-19 Risk Acknowledgement and Acceptance – UA Scientific Diving Program

Name:

Dept/Institution:

Date:

The emergence of the COVID-19 virus and the related health effects from COVID-19 infection have the potential for significant impacts on dive operations. While the science surrounding the health impact of COVID-19 to divers is still evolving, the UA Scientific Diving Program desires all divers to make informed decisions as to diver safety in light of COVID-19. As a diver, it is your responsibility to be informed and to make appropriate determinations as to your personal safety and dive readiness in the event you have been previously diagnosed as COVID-19 positive (whether asymptomatic or symptomatic). In addition, divers should be aware of the inherent risks that pertain to diving in light of the prevalence of COVID-19 in local areas, including the State of Alaska.

To assist divers in understanding the risks involved and to make appropriate determinations, the UA Scientific Diving Program has developed specific guidelines related to COVID-19 exposure. A copy of those guidelines is available online at the following link: Minimum COVID-19 exposure control guidelines for UA Research Diving Activity (https://www.uaf.edu/cfos/files/research/scientific-diving/ua-return-to-diving-guidelines.pdf). A print version of these guidelines is also available from the Diving Control Board contact for COVID-19 assistance listed below.

In addition to its own internal guidelines, the UA Scientific Diving Program is providing divers with access to COVID-19 Guidelines developed by our peer institution, UC San Diego, related to the Evaluation of Divers during the COVID-19 Pandemic. Online access to the UCSD Guidelines is available on the UA Scientific Diving website (https://www.uaf.edu/cfos/research/scientific-diving/), under Diving During COVID. Print versions of the UCSD Guidelines are available from the Diving Control Board contact for COVID-19 assistance listed below. The UCSD guidelines include specific recommendations for medical evaluations and considerations for persons with COVID-19 positive histories prior to resumption of diving. It is the recommendation of UA Scientific Diving Program that all UA divers with COVID-19 positive histories consider the recommendations of the UCSD guidance document as well as the guidance of their personal physician(s) in making any return to diving decisions.

COVID-19 Specific Risk Acknowledgement and Acceptance Provisions:

1) I understand that this document and the guidance provided is not and should not be deemed medical advice and that I should contact my personal physician(s) with any medical questions or concerns. Nothing contained in this document should be used as a replacement for professional medical advice and assistance. Divers are reminded to review Section 5.00 of the University of Alaska Scientific Diving Safety Manual for questions about the medical standards applicable to participation in dive activities at UA.

2) I acknowledge that diving after testing positive for COVID-19 has possible inherent health risks and I will not hold the university responsible for any COVID-19 related incidents or impacts resulting from my decision to resume diving.
3) I understand that any questions I have about diving during or following the COVID-19 pandemic should be directed to the UA Diving Control Board contact for COVID-19 assistance: Tracey Martinson (tamartinson@alaska.edu).

4) I have read and understand the referenced UC San Diego COVID-19 Guidelines. I understand that if I have previously been diagnosed as COVID-19 positive, whether symptomatic or asymptomatic, it is my responsibility to obtain appropriate medical advice and/or clearance from my personal physician(s) prior to resumption of dive activities.

5) I understand that diving during the COVID-19 pandemic has added additional risks to the typical research diving activities in which I plan to undertake.

6) I agree that, whether or not diagnosed as COVID-19 positive, I will not dive if I have any current or recent (within the prior 10 days) COVID-19 symptoms, including:
   a. Fever
   b. Cough
   c. Shortness of breath
   d. Chills
   e. Muscle or chest pain
   f. Sore throat
   g. New loss of taste or smell.

7) I agree that if I have been out of state, I will not dive unless I have social distanced for a minimum of 5 days and had a negative test prior to or immediately after arriving.

8) I will not dive if I have come into close contact (within 6 feet) with someone who has a laboratory confirmed COVID-19 diagnosis in the past 10 days.

Prior to resumption of diving during and/or following the COVID-19 pandemic, I understand the risks presented and have made an informed decision as to my readiness for dive resumption. Specifically, by signing this Acknowledgement and Acceptance, I confirm that I have

- Read, understood, and will abide by the Minimum COVID – 19 Exposure Control Guidelines for UA Research Diving Activity;
- Read and understood the UCSD Guidelines for Evaluation of Divers, specifically as applied to divers with COVID-19 positive histories;
- Read and understood this COVID Risk Acknowledgement and Acceptance Document;
- Contacted the Diving Control Board contact for COVID-19 assistance listed above with any questions I may have regarding the impact of COVID-19 on my dive plans.

Signature:_______________________________  Date:___________________
(Valid for one year from date of signature above)