

COVID-19 Risk Reduction at the PADI Instructor Examination

Dear PADI Instructor Examination candidate,

Like every other activity in the near term, reducing COVID-19 transmission risk is an important practice in diving, with some specific considerations. Fortunately, forethought and some simple adjustments meet this need without being overly complex or onerous.

General Disease Transmission Risk Reduction

The main transmission risk issues with COVID-19 (and other respiratory viruses like the flu) are respiration (inhaling droplets from another person's exhalation) and transmission through contact (touching an infected surface and then contacting the face/nose). By staying aware of both, risk reduction is usually straightforward. Keeping things simple usually works well.

But, while such steps are expected to substantially reduce disease transmission risk, Instructor Examination (IE) candidates must accept that, just as when they go *anywhere* that people are present, some risk remains.

Only candidates who are healthy should attend an IE. This is no different from at any time in the past, but is especially important now. Also, those who may have been exposed to COVID-19 (or other communicable disease) should avoid others until it's clear there is no transmission risk, as advised by medical professionals.

Logistical needs. Each IE Candidate must bring the following to the IE:

- Medical mask
- Hand sanitizer
- Commercial defog
- Own scuba equipment, disinfected
- Rescue breathing mask

Note that while you are in the classroom at the IE, you will be required to do the following:

- Wear medical masks
- Avoid contact with other candidates and staff
- Wash hands frequently and use hand sanitizer

While at the confined and open water sites, you will also need to;

- Disinfect equipment at disinfecting station
- Use commercially made defog
- Wear mask and snorkel/regulator in the water and medical mask on deck

Your safety is the number one concern at the IE!

If you have any questions about the Instructor Examination, please contact Maureen Brandt, IE Coordinator at 1-800-729-7234 ext. 2288 or at Maureen.brandt@padi.com