



# **Preparing for Sea Base**

**COVID-19**

**Communication for Adult Leaders and Parents**

v.2 12/01/2021

## Sea Base Statement

The health of participants, staff members, captains, and the communities where we operate are our primary concern. The purpose of this communication is to provide information, convey policies and prepare BSA units to attend Sea Base.

**Important Note:** Precautions cannot fully eliminate the potential for exposure to COVID-19 or any other illness while at Sea Base. Persons with COVID-19 may show no signs or symptoms of illness, but can still spread the virus, and people may be contagious before their symptoms occur. It is possible that someone with COVID-19 may pass the required health screenings and be allowed into camp. Every staff member, volunteer, and Scouting family must evaluate their unique circumstances and make an informed decision before choosing to attend Sea Base.

## Sea Base BSA COVID-19 Vaccination Recommendation

The National Office of the Boy Scouts of America, including Sea Base BSA, **strongly recommends** every Sea Base participant to become fully vaccinated prior to traveling to the Florida Keys, Bahamas, or US Virgin Islands to participate in a Sea Base program.

While vaccinations are not required, everyone participating in a **Bahamas** or **US Virgin Islands** Sea Base program **should be fully vaccinated** prior to travel due to the nature of United States, US Virgin Islands, and Bahamas travel and testing requirements along with the potential ramifications of a positive COVID-19 test result requiring quarantine or self-isolation in Abaco, Bahamas, or St. Thomas, USVI.

Individuals are considered fully vaccinated 2 weeks after their second dose in a 2-dose series AND have received a booster if vaccinated more than 6 months ago OR 2 weeks after a single dose vaccine AND have received a booster if vaccinated more than 2 months ago.

## CDC: COVID-19 Vaccination & Domestic Travel

CDC strongly recommends becoming fully vaccinated before domestic travel. CDC does not require a negative test to travel domestically.

For up-to-date information visit the CDC website ([here](#)).

## CDC: COVID-19 Vaccination & International Travel

CDC strongly recommends becoming fully vaccinated before international travel issuing the following, **“Do not travel internationally until you are fully vaccinated.”** The US Government **requires** a negative test, for vaccinated and unvaccinated travelers, taken no more than 1 day before returning to the United States.

For up-to-date information visit the CDC website ([here](#)).

## Bahamas: COVID-19 Travel Requirements

The Government of the Bahamas has developed travel recommendations for both vaccinated and unvaccinated travel for domestic travel.

Sea Base strongly recommends every participants to become fully vaccinated due to the ramifications of mandated quarantine or self-isolation due to a positive COVID-19 test result.

- **Bahamas Health Visa:** All visitors are required to obtain a Bahamas Travel Health Visa prior to entry. For more information visit the Bahamas Travel Health Visa Application ([here](#)).
- **Travel Health Insurance:** All visitors are required to opt-in, through the Bahamas Travel Health Visa, for travel insurance. Travel Health Insurance ([here](#)) and FAQ ([here](#)).
- **Pre-trip Testing Unvaccinated:** All **unvaccinated visitors** over the age of 12 must obtain, upload to the Health Visa, and travel with proof of a negative COVID-19 PCR test. Tests must be taken no more than 5 days prior to arrival in the Bahamas.
- **Pre-Trip Testing Vaccinated:** All **vaccinated visitors** over the age of 12 must obtain, upload to the Health Visa, and travel with proof of a negative COVID-19 test (either Rapid Antigen or PCR). Tests must be taken no more than 5 days prior to arrival in the Bahamas.
- **Day 5 Testing Unvaccinated Visitors:** All **unvaccinated visitors** staying longer than 4 nights and 5 days in the Bahamas are required to take a Rapid Antigen COVID-19 test.
- **Bahamas Sea Base Participants Must Review the Bahamas FAQ ([here](#)).**- Link once posted

For up-to-date information visit the Bahamas website ([here](#)).

**Note: The United States Government requires a negative test within 24 hours of travel to reenter the United States from the Bahamas.**

## US Virgin Islands: COVID-19 Travel Requirements

The Center for Disease Control (CDC) has developed travel recommendations for both vaccinated and unvaccinated travel for domestic travel. As a territory of the United States, US Virgin Islands is considered domestic travel.

CDC strongly recommends becoming fully vaccinated before domestic travel. CDC does not require a negative test, currently, to fly domestically; the Territory of the USVI **does** require a negative test.

- **US Virgin Islands Testing Requirement:** USVI requires a negative COVID-19 test, taken no more than 5 days prior to arrival in the territory.
- **USVI Travel Porthole:** US Virgin Islands also requires visitors to complete the US Virgin Islands Travel Screening Porthole process found ([here](#)).

For up-to-date information visit the USVI website ([here](#)).

### **\*Important Advisory\***

All participants and parents of participants are advised that Sea Base **DOES NOT** have onsite facilities for treatment, quarantine, or isolation. Any Crew with an individual becoming sick will be sent to a medical facility for testing/treatment. Anyone Crew with a member testing positive for COVID-19 will be required to depart Sea Base and seek treatment, quarantine, or isolation offsite.

All Bahamas Sea Base participants and parents of participants are advised that they must meet all current [United States](#) and [Bahamas Government](#) travel, quarantine, and isolation requirements and are further advised that these requirements are subject to change and that Sea Base has no authority over travel requirements.

## **Pre-Trek Planning, Unit Screening**

- **Cohorts and Social Distancing:** Due to the nature of Sea Base programs, participants within a crew cannot be expected to socially distance from one another. As a result, each crew will be treated as a cohort. Cohorts will not be permitted to interact with other cohorts or unassigned staff members. If (1) or more members of the crew test positive for COVID-19, the crew will not be permitted to remain onsite.
- **Know Before You Go:** Each participant and parent of participants must be fully aware of all travel requirements and be prepared to follow all required protocols.
- **Required Unit Screening:** Crews must set a date, 1-2 days prior to travel, to complete the required [Sea Base Pre-Event Medical Screening Checklist](#). The document must be submitted upon arrival.
  - Crews will be required to conduct daily wellness checks while at Sea Base.
- **Testing Recommendation:** Sea Base recommends that all participants, regardless of vaccination status, test for COVID-19 3-5 days prior to traveling to Sea Base.
- **Illness Restrictions:** Sick individuals are not eligible to attend Sea Base. If (1) or more members of the crew test positive for COVID-19, the crew will not be permitted to remain onsite.
- **Temperature Restrictions:** Individuals with elevated temperatures, above 100.4, are not eligible to attend Sea Base. If a Crew arrives with 1 or more individuals who have an elevated temperature the entire Crew will be sent for testing and treatment. If (1) or more members of the crew test positive for COVID-19, the crew will not be permitted to remain onsite.
  - Crews will be required to take daily temperature readings beginning at their time of arrival through their date of departure.
- **Illness/Temperature Restrictions Impacting Crews:** Units arriving with (1) or more participants who are sick or have an elevated temperature will be sent to a physician for treatment/testing. If (1) or more members of the crew test positive for COVID-19, the crew will not be permitted to remain onsite.
- **Chronic Medical Conditions:** Individuals with serious, chronic, medical conditions should not participate in a Sea Base Program. Should you choose to participate, you must have approval from your health care provider.
- **Scuba Participants Who Have Tested Positive for COVID-19 in the Past:** Individuals who have tested positive for COVID-19 or suspect that they contracted COVID-19 at any time should seek the medical advice of their physician and Divers Alert Network prior to attending.

- **Travel Restrictions Unvaccinated Participants:** Unvaccinated participants who have traveled outside of the continental United States in the last 1- 14 days are not eligible to attend Sea Base until they have reached CDC recommendations for post-travel quarantine AND have tested negative for COVID-19 AND/OR have a physicians note on letterhead stating that they have recovered from COVID-19 and are no longer contagious.
- **Travel Restrictions Vaccinated Participants:** Vaccinated participants who have traveled outside of the continental United States in the last 1- 14 days are not eligible to attend Sea Base until they have reached CDC recommendations for post-travel quarantine AND have tested negative for COVID-19 AND/OR have a physicians note on letterhead stating that they have recovered from COVID-19 and are no longer contagious.
- **Exposure Restrictions Unvaccinated Participants:** Unvaccinated participants who have been exposed to COVID-19 are not eligible to attend Sea Base unless they have completed the CDC recommended 5-day quarantine for exposure or self-isolation for a positive test AND have been non-symptomatic for a minimum of 24 hours AND have tested negative for COVID-19 five days after the date of last exposure or positive test OR have a physicians note on letterhead stating that they have recovered and are no longer contagious.
- **Exposure Restrictions Vaccinated Participants:** Vaccinated participants who have been exposed to COVID-19 are not eligible to attend unless their date of last exposure was longer than 5 days ago, they have been asymptomatic for a minimum of 24 hours AND have tested negative for COVID-19 five days after last date of exposure or positive test OR have a physicians note on letterhead stating that they have recovered and are no longer contagious.
- **Pre-Trek Social Distancing:** Crews must communicate to participants that they should ensure proper distancing between participants and others, other than immediate family members, 2 weeks prior to attending Sea Base whenever possible.
- **Pre-Trek Social Distancing:** Crews must communicate to participants and parents that they should require immediate family members to socially distance 2 weeks prior to their family members arrival at Sea Base whenever possible.
- **Hand Sanitizer Requirement:** Crews must purchase or require each participant to purchase sufficient hand sanitizer to last the duration of the trip to and from Sea Base.
- **Facial Covering Requirement Florida:** Crews must purchase or require each person to purchase a facial covering. Facial coverings must be worn anytime a crew is in common areas where they might encounter individuals from other crews or unassigned staff members, food service areas, retail stores, check-in, aboard vessels with other crews.
- **Facial Coverings Bahamas and USVI:** The Government of the Bahamas and Territory of the USVI require facial coverings to be worn in public including in all public spaces, taxi cabs, shuttles, etc.
- **Snorkel & Mask Requirement:** Due to COVID-19, Sea Base will no longer provide masks and snorkels. Crews must purchase or require each participant to purchase a snorkel and mask. Sea Base recommends that individuals purchase quality masks and snorkels as “inexpensive” masks and snorkels often leak, fit poorly or break. Quality, discounted, masks and snorkels are available at [Sea Base Ship Store](#).
- **Unit Leadership:** Each crew must elect/assign a youth member of your crew to act as the Sanitation Chief for the duration of your adventure. Responsibilities will include:
  - Instructing/reminding crew members to socially distance from other travelers, other crews, staff members.
  - Instructing/reminding crew members not to touch their eyes, nose, mouth.

- Instructing/reminding crew members to wash hands and use hand sanitizer.
- Instructing/reminding crew members to wear facial coverings.
- Instructing/reminding crew members to sanitize vessels/dormitories.
- **Crew Participation Model and Social Distancing:** Due to the nature of program types, activities and safety requirements, it is not possible for Sea Base to socially distance within a crew (person to person) or distance the crew from assigned staff members. All current CDC recommendations will be followed regarding quarantine/self-isolation in the event of illness, exposure, positive COVID-19 test.
- **Social Distancing Requirements:** Crews are required to socially distance from other crews, the public and non-assigned staff members. Crews refusing to socially distance will not be permitted to remain onsite.
- **Travel Types:** Crews should avoid traveling to Sea Base aboard trains or busses unless the provider has social distancing and air purification plans in place.

## General Travel to Sea Base

Units traveling to Sea Base should take the following precautions to limit the risk of contracting COVID-19 while traveling to and/from Sea Base:

- **Facial Coverings:** Participants must wear facial coverings during travel and upon arrival at Sea Base. Bahamas and USVI participants must wear facial coverings anytime in public.
- **Sickness/Elevated Temperature:** Do not allow sick participants to travel.
- **Exposure:** Do not allow participants exposed to COVID-19 to travel unless they have met quarantine restrictions and have tested negative for COVID-19 or have a physician's note.
- **Handwashing:** Wash hands frequently.
- **Hand Sanitation:** Bring hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol & use frequently
- **Touching:** Avoid touching eyes, nose, mouth.
- **Facial Covering:** Bring and use facial coverings.
- **Touching:** Avoid unnecessary touching of handrails, doors, etc.
- **Social Distancing:** Avoid close contact with non-crew members, within 6ft.
- **Food Service:** Pick up food at drive-throughs or curbside delivery.
- **Stops:** Limit non-essential stops.
- **Transportation:** Avoid trains and busses unless the provider has social distancing and air purification plans in place.

## Checking in at Sea Base

To ensure proper social distancing Sea Base will require:

- **Facial Covering:** Participants must wear facial coverings upon arriving at Sea Base.
- **Social Distancing:** One adult leader will be allowed to check-in his/her crew at a time.
- **Social Distancing:** No other youth or adults from his/her crew, or any other crew, will be permitted in/at the check-in area.
- **Adult Oversight:** Members of each crew will wait in assigned areas. It is the responsibility of the second adult leader to ensure that youth and adults remain in the assigned area.
- **Medical Screening/Temperature Check:** Each participant's BSA AHMR will be reviewed, and everyone will have their temperature taken upon arrival. Crews arriving with a sick individual or

individual with temperature exceeding 100.4 degrees will be sent for testing and treatment. If any member of the crew tests positive for COVID-19 the crew will not be permitted to remain onsite.

## Meal Service

### Bahamas and USVI Meal Service:

- Bahamas and USVI crews will eat their meals aboard their vessels.

### Florida Keys Meal Service:

- Crews will be assigned a specific mealtime upon arrival.
- No more than one crew may access the main food service area at a time.
- Crews will be assigned seating.
- Crews must wear facial coverings when indoors/or receiving food stores.

## Meal Service Sanitation

Sea Base has enacted a sanitation plan for food service areas including front of the house, back of the house, delivery and refuse disposal.

- **Service Lines:** Staff will clean and sanitize service lines between each service.
- **Food Preparation:** Staff will clean and sanitize non-service areas in accordance with Florida Department of Health regulations.
- **Seating:** Staff will clean and sanitize all seating prior to and following each series of services; breakfast, lunch, dinner.

## Retail, Florida Keys

Florida Keys retail locations are limited to:

- Islamorada Ship Store, 8 individuals or as specified.
- Islamorada Snack Bar, 8 individuals or as specified.
- Brinton Environmental Center, 8 individuals or as specified.
- Camp Sawyer, 2 individuals or as specified.

## Dormitories, Florida Keys

Sea Base has erected walls in dormitories to designate space for individual crews. Unless there is considerable change to COVID-19 restrictions, crews will not share designated dorm space. If there are insufficient dormitories, Sea Base will provide air-conditioned “glamping” tents.

- Sea Base will clean and sanitize dormitories & tents between use.

## Sailing Vessels

No more than one crew/cohort may be aboard a sailing vessel at a time in the Bahamas, Florida Keys or US Virgin Islands.

- Captains and crews will clean and sanitize vessels prior to crew arrival and before crew departure.

## Scuba & Snorkel Vessels

Each vessel will be sectioned creating +6ft distance between crews.

- Vessels will be cleaned and sanitized before and following each use.
- Crews will be restricted to their designated areas.

## Sea Base Camp-Wide Activities

Any activities in which Sea Base cannot ensure social distancing will be restricted to individual crews.

## Staff Wellness

Sea Base staff and captains will be subject to medical review, mandatory illness reporting and temperature checks, and COVID-19 testing.

- Staff and captains will attend COVID-19 specific training.
- Staff and captains will be required to socially distance from all non-assigned crews.
- Staff and captains will be required to socially distance from the public whenever possible and adhere to social distancing when in public.
- Staff and captains will be required to wear facial coverings in common areas, retail, food service areas, and whenever prudent/possible aboard vessels.
- Staff and Captains are required to test for COVID-19 3-5 prior to onsite arrival.
- Staff and Captains are required to test for COVID-19 upon arrival.
- Staff and Captains are required to test 5 days after onsite arrival.
- Staff and Captains are required to submit to daily wellness checks.
- Staff and Captains are required to self-report symptoms of COVID-19.
- BSA National, including Sea Base, strongly recommend that all staff and captains become fully vaccinated against COVID-19 prior to onsite arrival.

## General Personal Cleanliness

Sea Base participants, staff and captains are required to:

- Frequently wash hands for 30 seconds using soap and water.
- Avoid touching their mouth, nose, eyes.
- Possess and use hand sanitizer containing 60% alcohol.
- Possess and wear facial coverings.

## Snorkel Gear Requirements

Sea Base now requires that everyone bring or purchase their own snorkel and snorkel mask.

- Due to health & safety concerns Sea Base prohibits “full-face” snorkel masks.
- Sea Base recommends against purchasing poor-quality snorkel sets because they often leak, poorly fit, and diminish the opportunity for a quality underwater experience.
- Sea Base has begun selling quality, discounted, snorkel gear online at [www.fsbshipstore.com](http://www.fsbshipstore.com). The gear sold will be new in package and is the same gear currently used by Sea Base. Gear can be shipped or picked up onsite (Florida Keys Only).

## **Closing**

Sea Base has developed a plan to decrease the likelihood of COVID-19 transmission. Sea Base has shared its plan with local health officials. Staff and captains have and will continue to receive significant training. However, no level of planning can fully eliminate the potential for COVID-19 transmission. Traveling to, participating at, and returning home from Sea Base presents risk.

It is essential that each participant, parent or guardian, and volunteer adult leader understands the risks associated prior to attending Sea Base. Ultimately it is the responsibility of attendees and their parents or guardians to make the decision that is best for them and their families

