

COVID 19 update: June 18th

Shipmates & Fellow Adventurers

At long last we have some news to share! State guidance for our industry is in place, and barring any further setbacks it looks as though we will be able to go sailing! We have decided that the first trip of the season for both *Ladona* and *Stephen Taber* will be in **mid-July**.

The short version of all of this is that if we can do so safely and within the published guidelines put in place to keep Maine safe, **we are determined to do what we do**: provide a respite from the modern world and take you on the sailing adventure of a lifetime.

On the *Stephen Taber* and *Ladona*, we remain dedicated to the safety of our guests, and with that in mind, we have outlined the steps we will be taking to protect you and our crew. We will also be asking you, our shipmates, to accept and acknowledge the risks necessarily inherent in travel in these strange times. We believe that with the promised rollout of widely available testing, requiring our guests to be able to provide proof of a negative test result is the best way to ensure we can enjoy the pleasures of Penobscot Bay together.

So first and foremost, here is the revised sailing schedule for [TABER](#) and [LADONA](#). We have done our best to change dates as little as possible so as not to disrupt plans for those of you who are already booked. As to be expected, some of our fleetwide events have been cancelled, so we have altered the thematic program of one or two trips as well. Our 2021 schedules are also posted on our respective websites.

After you have had time to think about our operating protocols, please let us know if you still plan on sailing with us. This doesn't have to be a guarantee, and you are still free to cancel. We just want to know if you intend to try and make it; we have all learned to live with uncertainty, but it would be greatly appreciated if we knew who was still able to make the journey to our dock. If you are immunocompromised, traveling at this time may not be the best decision for you. We completely understand.

Lastly, I'm sure you can guess that we will have plenty of last-minute availability! Usually, we are fully booked at this time; this may be the best summer to convince your friends and family to be extemporaneous and book a trip.

Safety On Board

The State of Maine has published guidance for Windjammers, and as of today, this can be viewed [here](#). Our goal, as ever, is to meet or exceed the State's standards. We have outlined the main points below, and although there are a few tumblers still to fall into place, it looks as though we have a path forward that allows us to maintain our high standards and fulfill our promise to operate our schooners.

- **Testing:** Maine will accept proof of a negative test result instead of a 14 day quarantine. Notably, testing is not yet widely available. We have been assured that this will change, and that in the coming month, accurate testing should be available across the country for the general public. Additionally, we will be requesting ALL guests to be able to provide proof of a negative test result, no matter the point of departure. This means that even guests from Maine, Vermont, and New Hampshire will be tested; we would like everyone to rest assured that we are all playing by the same rules, and that once aboard, we can be reasonably sure that we have done everything we can do to keep everyone safe while we get on with enjoying our sailing

adventure! Crew will be tested at the beginning of the season, and we will have a rotating schedule of tests for them throughout the summer. **Once here, we will ask guests to swear and affirm that all have received a negative test result within the last 72 hours and remain symptom-free.**

- **Pre-screening questionnaire:** We will be contacting you around 10 days prior to your departure date with some simple questions: are you symptom free, will you be able to get tested.
- **Itinerary:** We will be making a conspicuous effort to avoid towns and villages, and instead concentrate on the beauty of the myriad remote locations we are lucky to have in our unique cruising ground.
- **Mask wearing:** many of you have contacted us and shared your concern that we will be required to mask-up all the time. We agree that while out in the fresh breeze of Penobscot Bay, this would be burdensome. The CDC has agreed that while on deck, masks are not required; however, when social distancing is not possible, such as when riding together in our small boats, when passing in hatchways, when together down below, the captain may ask that you wear a mask, at his discretion. As always, we are shipmates, and will all need to be considerate. Rest assured that our crew will be wearing face shields or masks when appropriate.
- **Group size:** We will limit the number of guests on each of our vessels to 20 on the *Taber* and 16 on *Ladona*.
- **Hand hygiene:** Guests and crew will be reminded to practice good hand hygiene with frequent handwashing and hand sanitizing especially between contact with shared items and surfaces. We will provide multiple hand sanitizing and/or hand washing stations throughout the boat and at the entrance to all common areas. Vessels will have readily available hand sanitizer, cleaning products and spare face coverings on every trip.
- **Surface sanitation:** Below deck common areas, such as heads, galley, companionways (access to accommodations), especially contact surfaces, will be disinfected thoroughly multiple times throughout the day, especially in places of high contact like railings, heads and more. Enhanced cabin sanitation between trips will be in place via cleaning and sanitizing (with EPA approved sanitizer) on all hard surfaces after every trip. All linens, bedspreads and covers will be laundered or sanitized. Following each departure, guest cabins will be left vacant for a period of time to allow for deep cleaning, disinfectant and cleaners to dry, and reasonable air exchange.
- **Gatherings:** Policies will be put in place to limit the number of people in enclosed spaces, such as galley, salon, and during excursions in small auxiliary boats to maintain as much physical distancing as practicable.
- **Meals:** Are to be served with due consideration given to social distancing practices as feasible. First preference shall be given to dining above decks. If meals are served below decks, guests will be seated with consideration to social distancing. Guests and crew must use hand sanitizer and/or wash their hands before entering the dining area before each meal. Meals shall be individually served by crew according to approved practices, limiting serving utensil exposure to as few individuals as possible.
- **Worst case planning:** A safety plan and full operational procedures will be designed and posted for each vessel in the event that a passenger exhibits symptoms of COVID-19. Anyone exhibiting signs or symptoms of COVID-19 will be quarantined. As soon as is feasible these individuals should be evacuated to the nearest testing and/or medical facility. One passenger cabin shall be set aside for the purposes of quarantining any person exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 until such time, and as early as is feasible, that person can be evacuated to definitive medical care.
- **PPE:** Vessels will have an appropriate number of masks and gloves available on board such that each guest or crew can obtain PPE upon request in the event of a suspected exposure.

We hope this helps clarify things, and we hope you will be able to find your way to us. We understand that for this year at least, the added risks of travel may be too burdensome, and if that is the case, we will look forward to seeing you on the water at some future time. We wish the good health, fair winds, and, peace of mind.

Revised Reservation/Cancellation Policy. For as long as COVID-19 is an unmitigated public health emergency we are temporarily implementing a revised reservation/cancellation policy.

Rates – Our rates will remain the same.

Reservations – Deposits continue to be \$350 per person when you make your reservation. Balances are now due 4 weeks before sailing (instead of 6 weeks)

Cancellation Policy – All reservations may be canceled up until 10 days before your cruise departure. Cancel anytime up until then and we will refund your money– no cancellation fee. Or we can give you a raincheck applying your deposit to a future cruise during the 2020, 2021, 2022 or 2023 seasons.

Additional resources may be found here:

<https://www.maine.gov/covid19/restartingmaine/keepmainehealthy/faqs>