

Wolfe Island Boat Club Risk Mitigation Plan



Situation

As of June 2020, Covid-19 continues to pose a significant risk to Wolfe Island and the nearby Kingston community. Fortunately, confirmed cases of community transmission have remained low in the area. As of June 2nd, there has only been one newly confirmed case of community transmission within the last 7 days (<https://www.kflaph.ca/en/healthy-living/status-of-cases-in-kfla.aspx>) and 62 cases resolved. Our region remains well below the provincial rate for total positive tests (0.5% vs 3.8%). Furthermore, to ensure our community's safety there is an ongoing commitment to social distancing, sanitization practices and travel restrictions (ferry and border) (as per public health guidelines).

Given the local situation, it appears that with continued safety precautions and implementation of targeted health and cleaning protocols, returning to some form of outdoor recreation this summer is feasible.

Rowing Canada Aviron (RCA) has established a series of risk mitigation tools to aid in the process of opening up boat clubs. The Wolfe Island Boat Club (WIBC) scored in the 'moderate risk' category in the online risk assessment tool (<https://rowingcanada.org/return-to-rowing-planning/>), meaning that once protocols are in place as per RCA's Risk Mitigation Tool, WIBC could meet accepted guidelines to get back on the water. Although WIBC does not currently register with RCA (and therefore does not require sanctioning), it was deemed prudent to follow a similar process to other clubs, and it also provides documentation as to our efforts to mitigate the risks associated with COVID-19 for our members.

What follows is a series of protocols which addresses all mandatory items of the Risk Mitigation Tool. Note that these are not permanent measures, and may become more or less restrictive as the situation evolves.

It is important to understand that these protocols are intended to *mitigate* risks. The safest thing for any member to do in these times is stay home, especially if they fall in the higher risk categories (i.e., 65 and older, and/or have chronic health conditions/respiratory conditions). By using the club, we are accepting risk, as we do in all stages of our lives. These protocols are intended to *minimize* risk using common sense measures that meet accepted guidelines yet still allow WIBC to operate in a manner that makes getting on the water accessible to its membership.

Protocol Outline

- 1) 'Covid Team'
- 2) Education and Public Health Awareness
- 3) Member Self-Monitoring Requirements
- 4) Crews
- 5) Get in – Row/Sail – Get Out
- 6) Cleaning and Hygiene
- 7) Boathouse Flow
- 8) Communication

9) Response Plan

1) 'Covid Team'

WIBC's 'COVID Strategic Operations Team', consists of a:

- Communications and Operations Lead (CL)
 - Responsible for communicating protocol to membership
 - Responsible for establishing improved communication within club to better establish availability of crews and meet RCA requirements for communication w/ membership in the event that a rower develops symptoms
 - Manages the execution of the protocols, including cleaning supplies, boathouse flow, scheduling of crew launch/land times, etc.
- Medical Lead (ML)
 - Advises board on health recommendations and handles follow-up considerations in the event a club member develops symptoms

2) Education and Public Awareness

It is critical that WIBC members are familiar with Health Canada recommendations on Covid-19 prevention measures. Thus, all members will be required to familiarize themselves with the Health Canada 'Prevention and Risks' document found here: <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/prevention-risks.html?topic=tilelink>. Before their first use of the club, members will sign that they have read and understood these guidelines. This is specifically important for members deemed by Health Canada to be 'at-risk', as they will be accepting a heightened level of risk.

The Medical Lead will be responsible to routinely check on KFLA resources to maintain awareness on local Covid-19 transmission. In the event of a significant increase in community transmission, consideration will be given to increasing restrictions at ML's discretion.

Member Code of Conduct protocols will be prominently displayed at the WIBC Boathouse to encourage member vigilance.

3) Member Self-Monitoring Requirements

In addition to being aware of Health Canada guidelines, members engaged in ongoing use of the club will be expected to complete a self-assessment here: <https://ca.thrive.health/covid19/en>. It is expected that members will continually self-monitor their own health and update the club that there has been *no change in any of their answers since completing the assessment*.

Should a change occur, members will be required to retake the assessment before arriving at the boathouse. Should a member develop symptoms or be exposed to a person suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19, they will immediately carry out the 'Response Plan' under section 9 of this document.

4) Crew

It is recommended to avoid larger crew/sail boats to minimize member exposure inside the 2m physical distance 'bubble'.

At this time, WIBC's rowing program will be operating singles and doubles crews exclusively. The inherent risk of doubles crews will be *mitigated* by maintaining these crews to specific nodes, i.e. double crews will remain exclusively paired as much as possible. This will require heightened planning and communication prior to rowing sessions, as discussed in section 8. If possible, crews will be assigned to *specific* oars to minimize cross-crew contamination. This does not take away from the importance of diligent cleaning of shells, to be later discussed.

5) Come – Row/Sail – Leave

Extended exposure to the club facilities heightens risk. Therefore, every effort will be made to limit time spent at the club. The following protocols will be required for members:

- Arrive and depart club ready for your activity.
- Access to the clubhouse will be restricted by lockbox or key pad (members only) {pending*}
- Only one member to access the oar/paddle equipment room at a time. Members are not to enter the boat house proper.
- Pre and post-row socializing at the club should be kept to an absolute minimum, and maintain 2m distance wherever possible.

6) Cleaning and Hygiene

A hand-washing station will be set up at the club west side entrance. Use of this station is *mandatory* when first entering the club.

Club equipment will be washed after each use. Supplies for this cleaning (clean towels, soap and buckets for water) will be provided by the club. Record of completion of these tasks will be recorded on the club white board.

The actual cleaning of the boats will be thorough and simply put, *any part of the boat touched is a part that will be cleaned with soap and water*. This includes but is not limited to the shell itself, riggers, oar locks, oars, and seats. Instructions for cleaning boats will be posted at the club and on the website.

Members are to be diligent with hygiene on and off the water. This includes habits of minimizing face-touching, minimizing contacting with other members, refraining from spitting, sneezing into clothed sleeves, etc.

Members bringing hygienic materials (tissues, towels, water bottles) on the water will be responsible for containing them in a sealed container (e.g., Ziploc bag). Disposal of any hygienic material will take place *outside the club* in the garbage bin (or take it home!).

7) Boathouse Flow

Enter west side of club and exit on east side by the General Wolfe parking lot.

If there are multiple members wanting to go on the water at one time, crew launch and landing times will be staggered by 15 minutes to minimize physical interaction. These 15 minutes should give crews enough time to complete the following flow:

- 1) Arrive at the west side of the club. Clean hands. Sign in.
- 2) Obtain necessary equipment (oars, paddles, lifejackets)
- 3) Carry equipment to docks (dock limited to use by one crew at a time)
- 4) Launch

Likewise, planned landing times will also be staggered by 15 minutes to allow for the following flow:

- 1) Land
- 2) Move equipment into cleaning area
- 3) Post-landing cleaning of equipment
- 4) Return equipment into storage
- 5) Exit, sign out.

The General Wolfe parking lot is sufficiently large to allow ample 2m spacing, thus members can wait in the lot while *maximizing distance* from other members.

No cleaning is to be done inside the boathouse.

Members wanting to row a single may seek out the help of other rowers to assist in moving their shell to the water. It is critical that the ‘helper’ ensure heightened hygiene measures and maintain 2m distance throughout, which will be achieved by carrying the single from opposite ends (bow to stern).

8) Communication

[SignUp.Com](https://www.signup.com) will be used by members to book their boat. A WhatsApp group will also be created to disseminate critical information to the membership. This group will be used for

essential discussion only. This will ensure efficiency of communication. Formal communications will also be noted on the club [website](#), and on the WIBC [facebook page](#).

Communication will be handled by the Communications Lead of the Covid-19 Team.

9) Response Plan

Should a member develop symptoms after use of the club, they will be required to immediately contact public health services. At the soonest possible opportunity following public health communication, the member will contact the Medical Lead.

It will be the Medical Lead's responsibility to immediately identify potential contamination to other members using the sign in / sign out book. Members deemed to have come into contact with the symptomatic member will be informed, and they will contact public health accordingly. The membership will be made aware of potential contact through the WhatsApp group chat.

No members who have developed symptoms, or who have come into contact with symptomatic members, will be permitted to use the boathouse until a negative test result has been established. The Medical Lead may close down all club activity at their discretion if deemed necessary.

Should a member become symptomatic while at the club, they will be moved to the isolation area (into their cars in the parking lot) as soon as possible to await transportation from the club.