



# Hebridean Whale & Dolphin Trust

## Prior to Joining

The best way to avoid disruption to an expedition is to ensure, to your best ability, that you don't join the team with a Covid infection so please follow the guidance below on what you should do prior to joining.

### Will I need to be vaccinated to join the expedition?

Yes, everyone on board must be vaccinated. In Scotland, this means that vulnerable people and those over 50 should have had their booster vaccination during the winter 2022/23.

### What will I need to do prior to embarking?

We are asking you to take a lateral flow test (LFT) 3 days prior to the start of the expedition AND a second test on the morning of the rendezvous. Both must be negative to join the expedition.

### What if I display symptoms before joining?

Do not join and follow the guidance in your country for what to do regarding testing/isolation etc.

### Will I get a refund if I can't join because of Covid infection?

Yes, a full refund will be offered if you cannot participate in an expedition because of Covid infection. The option to transfer your booking to a future available expedition will also be an option.

## During the Expedition

### What additional measures are HWDT taking to ensure our safety on board?

We have enhanced our cleaning protocols on board and will provide additional hygiene resources at key locations on the vessel. On arrival, crew will outline these protocols and indicate where the resources are placed/stored.

## What will happen if I start to display symptoms during an expedition?

As a point of reference, we are referring to the common symptoms of Covid as:

- continuous cough,
- fever/high temperature (37.8C or greater)
- loss of, or change in, sense of smell or taste (anosmia)

If you develop symptoms, you must take a Lateral Flow Test (LFT) immediately.

If the test is negative, you can remain on board. If an LFD test is positive, you will be required to leave the survey.

At any time during the survey, you can choose to leave if you develop symptoms but test negative, or if another volunteer has developed symptoms and tested negative.

## What if I test positive during an expedition?

If you test positive, a protocol has been put in place to allow you to temporarily isolate on board *Silurian*, minimising contact with other until we can return to port. Priority will be given to getting *Silurian* to port so you can travel home to safely isolate.

## Where will I disembark if leave the vessel early?

We will aim to return to the same point of departure (unless serious illness or the or the vessels geographic location makes this operationally impossible). It is not possible for you to self-isolate on board *Silurian* once back to port.

## Will the expedition be cancelled if someone tests positive on board?

The survey will not automatically be cancelled due to a positive case on board. Everyone on board will be required to LFD test daily following any positive case on board, in line with the Scottish Government Guidance on testing, self-isolation, and close contacts. You will be asked to supply their own supply of LFT in the eventuality of a positive case on board.

If a crew member tests positive, if possible, an alternative crew member will be brought in to facilitate delivery of the survey. If it is not possible to find replacement crew the survey may be cancelled.

If a second positive case on board is confirmed via an LFD test the expedition may be cancelled, this will be at the recommendation of the Skipper.

## Will I get a refund if leave early?

If you leave the expedition early no refund will be offered. If HWDT cancel the expedition for any reason, a refund will be offered.

## Will I need to wear a face mask during the expedition?

There will be no mandatory wearing of face masks on board *Silurian* during the expedition. If you feel more comfortable wearing one, you will be supported by the crew and other

participants to do so. However, please note the crew may ask you to remove your mask in an emergency situation to ensure clear communication.

### **Will I still be able to venture ashore in the evening?**

Yes, shore visits will still be part of the expedition if you choose to venture ashore. All shore visits will be undertaken in line with current guidance in place at that location. At all times everyone should respect concerns of local communities and minimize risks of transmission.

If you go ashore during survey and pass through an area frequented by other people such as a shop or marina, you have a responsibility to minimize transmission risks. For example, washing hands regularly and wearing a mask if required.

### **Are there additional items I should pack to make sure I'm all set?**

Please see the Kit List attached alongside this FQA document for a comprehensive list of what you should pack to join an expedition. The main additional items with regards to our updated Covid procedures are:

- Face masks – it is not compulsory to wear face masks, however if you feel more comfortable doing so you are more than welcome to.
- Lateral Flow Tests – we would ask that you bring enough LFT to allow daily testing on board in the event of a positive case.

If you have any questions about what we're asking you to do and the Covid Action Plan that we're implementing, please don't hesitate to get in touch with Morven: [morven.summers@hwdt.org](mailto:morven.summers@hwdt.org) or 07493 891946.

**We can't wait to welcome you on board this field season, people are at the heart of our research work, driving our conservation forward and we're excited to get underway with full monitoring efforts.**