

Guidelines for Conducting Watercraft Inspections During COVID-19

This information is meant to provide guidelines for watercraft inspectors around the state who are healthy and want to begin conducting watercraft inspections. These guidelines provide ways to conduct watercraft inspections while following recommended safety precautions, however the [Wisconsin Department of Health Services](#) and the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) recommend that adults over the age of 60 and individuals with underlying health conditions continue to shelter in place and that safeguards should be taken to isolate from vulnerable populations. Watercraft inspection is a voluntary activity. Please put your health and safety first.



People who have symptoms of a coronavirus infection should not be at the landing. The [most common symptoms](#) include coughing, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, flu-like symptoms (fever, chills, muscle pain), sore throat, and new loss of taste or smell.

A Phased Approach to Managing Risk at Landings for CBCW

The Badger Bounce Back Plan and CDC Guidelines for Opening Up America Again include [gating criteria](#) (metrics and data) and phases to help people make decisions about interacting in groups and safely returning to activities. You can view the status of each metric in Wisconsin on the [DHS website](#), updated daily. These criteria and the phases can be useful for local groups deciding when and how to carry out CBCW activities at boat landings. The specific metrics that DHS provides are based on federal guidance found in the CDC's national pandemic strategy.

CDC and WI DHS gating criteria and phases also depend on the capacity of the health care system to handle surges in coronavirus cases. As of mid-May, these capacity metrics have been met in Wisconsin. Should a major outbreak occur in the state, capacity could again become an issue.

PLEASE VIEW TABLE OF GUIDELINES ON THE REVERSE SIDE OF THIS DOCUMENT.

Additional Resources to Consider

- Yard sign informing landing visitors of inspections and the safety precautions being taken.
- More info on AIS prevention and specific invasives can be found on the WI DNR's website by typing in keywords, such as "AIS" or "zebra mussels" into the homepage search bar.
- Review [CDC's instructions on proper methods for putting on and taking off face masks](#).

If you have further questions, please contact your [local AIS Coordinator](#) (if you don't know, find out who that is [here](#)) or Erin McFarlane, Statewide CBCW Educator, at erin.mcfarlane@uwsp.edu.

<p style="text-align: center;">ACTIONS FOR WATERCRAFT INSPECTORS</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Organizations need to determine when they can initiate and expand landing activities. Gating criteria on the DHS website can be helpful in making that determination.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">PHASE 1</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Watercraft inspections may begin at less busy boat landings around the state with groups of 10 people or less.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">PHASE 2</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Watercraft inspections can expand to landings with groups of 50 people or less.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">PHASE 3</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Return to normal inspections (Understand that boaters and anglers may still appreciate efforts to maintain a physical distance and additional sanitation protocols).</p>
Maintain at least 6 feet of distance from others and their boats/equipment.*	YES	YES	OPTIONAL
<p>Use a cloth face mask when there are additional people at the landing who could come into close proximity – this is meant to protect others in case you are infected but without symptoms (if you have symptoms, you should not be at the landing). <i>Free, reusable, 4-ply cloth face masks will be available for inspectors to order online in June.</i></p>	YES	YES	OPTIONAL
Have access to hand sanitizer (at least 60% alcohol content).	YES	YES	OPTIONAL
Hand out AIS brochures, stickers, or other publications.	NO	NO	YES (upon request)
Assist boaters/anglers with plant removal.	NO (unless using a grabbing tool)	NO (unless using a grabbing tool)	YES
Share inspection materials with other inspectors, such as clipboards, datasheets, t-shirts, hats, etc.	NO	NO	NO
Wash and sanitize hands especially after touching public surfaces, such as handrails on boat launches or piers.**	YES	YES	YES

*If you are suddenly unable to maintain 6 feet of distance from others because of the number of people at a landing, remove yourself to a safe location where you can observe and allow your presence and friendly wave to be a positive reminder of AIS prevention for others.

**The virus is not spread through the skin, so we do not recommend using gloves at the landing. More importantly, limit touching your eyes, nose, and mouth and wash/sanitize after contacting public surfaces.