

## Equipment Guidance

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This guidance is based on existing knowledge but is subject to change as the situation evolves.

The current Government guidance is "[Living safely with respiratory infections, including COVID-19](#)". The main points are:

- Continuous cough and/or high temperature are the most common symptoms of the onset of coronavirus (COVID-19).
  - **Anyone displaying any symptoms should NOT engage in any activity outside the home**
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### COVID-19 virus survival time

The coronavirus will not survive indefinitely outside a host.

- Survival time varies depending on the nature of the surface
- Heat, disinfectant and cleaning agents can be effective in reducing contamination

### Equipment Care

The manufacturer's recommendations should be followed for maintenance, servicing and care.

Cylinders should be tested in accordance with local regulations.

### Disinfection

Only use cleaning agents and procedures that the manufacturer has recommended. Failure to do this may lead to injury and/or damage to the equipment.

The risk of COVID-19 transmission may be reduced by soaking equipment that is intended for use by another diver, such as mouthpieces, in a disinfectant solution for 10 minutes. The equipment should then be rinsed thoroughly in fresh water to remove the disinfectant.

Equipment going into storage should be allowed to air dry after being disinfected and rinsed.

### Mouthpieces

Divers should avoid touching or using mouthpieces, including those on Buoyancy Compensators, intended for use by another person.

### Group equipment

Equipment that may be used by multiple divers needs to be carefully controlled and additional precautions considered. It is recommended that equipment should only be allocated to a single person for a training session

Equipment that has been breathed upon, such as mouthpieces, should be disinfected using the process above before being used by another person.

### **Rebreathers**

Normal processes for disinfecting the rebreather loop should be adequate to reduce the risk of transmission if it is only used by a single person.

Rebreathers should not be shared between divers, such as during try dives, unless the breathing loop is disinfected, and rinsed with fresh water. It should then be allowed to dry fully which takes approximately 72 hours in a warm environment.

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