



## ADVISORY TO MASTER

**Date:** 4<sup>th</sup> June 2020

**Advisory #:** 08/2020

**Title:** Bahamas Reopening Procedure & COVID-19 Mobile Testing

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We are pleased to report that the Bahamas have announced the re-opening of their islands. Phase 1 will start 15<sup>th</sup> June and Phase 2 will begin 1<sup>st</sup> July. During Phase 1, private flights and yachts will be able to travel to the island. Commercial airlines can carry permanent residents and homeowners to the island, but they will be required to test negative for the virus. From 1<sup>st</sup> July, commercial airlines, hotels, and vacation rentals will resume full activity. Please visit the news report here [The Nassau Guardian](#) and attached is the full report issued by the Tourism Readiness and Recovery Committee.

### Happy Cruising!

Angus Mackenzie has been in contact with Christian Mayer, the owner of Arcpoint Labs in Palm Beach, website <https://www.arcpointlabs.com/west-palm-beach/>. They are fully equipped to travel to vessels for testing and have worked within the yachting and marine sector. In an email Angus has received from Christian, he states:

*We specialize in supporting south Florida's yacht and marine clientele. With over 50 motor yachts and marinas supported with nearly 800 tests in the last month, we have developed a highly efficient boat-side testing process that focuses on customized support and service. We understand the needs of yacht captains and owners and provide a high quality service tailored for their needs. This includes:*

- **Mobile testing teams** that test crews in place be it on a vessel, crew house, or hotel
- **Advice and consultation** on testing strategies and policies to protect crews and guests alike.
- **Highly efficient process** with prework planned in advance and fast, professional medical assistants that can test a crew of 20 in 1 hour. Crews never have to leave their site.
- Viral diagnostic tests back in an average of **24 hours** vs. 2-7 days at most labs
- All results are delivered through a **secure email**
- **Captains/employers receive an online Sharefile** where all crew results are deposited and available real time.

- **Dedicated physician** that provides pre-diagnostic evaluation and consultation with crew members. Both **crew member and captain** are contacted by the doctor for any positive PCR tests.
- **Flexible testing** that meets client's needs even after hours or weekends.
- Access to a **variety** of labs and tests
- Able to set up **on-site clinics** if you have multiple boat needs or want to offer onsite testing in an available room over an extended time.
- **Itemized invoice for submission to insurance for reimbursement** (check with your specific carrier but most insurers will reimburse with the details we provide)

The following is information on the onsite process and testing.

**Testing:** We have 2 tests to consider:

- **PCR Viral diagnostic test** – determines current active infection. This test requires a doctor's order which we include and coordinate
  - **Premier solution:** \$290. This test uses nasal swabs and not the nasopharyngeal swabs that go far back in the sinus cavity. These are more comfortable for patients and less intrusive. This solution has the fastest turnaround time of 24-48 hours, with most results in 24 hours. Supply is excellent and testing can be done as early as same day if test slots are available.
  - **Standard solution:** \$195. This test uses standard nasopharyngeal swabs that are used in most large scale testing sites. There may be availability limitations with these swabs so booking in advance is required. Turnaround time is less predictable and can be from 2-7 days.
- **Antibody testing** – determines past infection and identifies if antibodies are present. We offer several immunoassay lab-based test options available:
  - **IgG only** for \$149
  - **IgM and IgG** for \$175
  - **IgM, IgG, and IgA** for \$250

We recommend including IgM as it gives important information of recent infection which would not show up in an IgG only test. An immunoassay test is a more sophisticated test than the finger prick Point of Care test which have had reported reliability concerns.

- **Onsite fees** – \$100/hr./technician plus mileage at .58/mi

Here are a few details about the onsite testing and what to expect:

**In advance:**

1. Captain provides a **crew roster with names and contact numbers**
2. The diagnostic test requires a doctor's order and consultation. These **consultations will occur at the start of the event and the doctor will call in to address the crew.**
3. A **patient form** is sent in advance and should be distributed to the crew to be completed and printed out to turn in at the testing event.
4. If a **captain or employer wishes to receive results** directly, please make sure the crew checks the release to employer box in the top part of the form.

**Onsite Logistics:** We will come out to the vessel with all materials. We only require 2 chairs for the donors to sit, some work space for paperwork, and access to power.

**At Event:**

- For the safety of others and the staff, we require all patients to wear a face cover during their visit and to observe social distancing while onsite.
- Bring completed patient form
- Based on the request, a swab test will be performed for PCR, and blood draw for antibody.

**After the event:** Results will be sent via secure email with an average of 1-2 day turn around for PCR test and 3-4 day for antibody.

**Billing:** We will forward an invoice after the event and payment can be made by credit card, check, ACF or wire.

Finally, I put together some thoughts on testing strategies. I would appreciate your thoughts on it.

Please let me know if you have any questions on the testing or offers we can provide. I'm happy to work with you creating the best solution for your boats. We look forward to supporting you and the crews.

Best regards,

Chris

We will endeavor to continue to send out the most up to date information as it comes in.

Please contact us if you have any questions.

**Fairport Yacht Support**

## Vessel Testing Considerations

In work with many captains on testing protocols, I recommend each vessel have a testing program. In summary, a vessel needs to have a departure test plan, and arrival test plan, and a crew rotation onboarding plan.

While there are several approaches to this, but I am offering some suggestions below. COVID-19 is unpredictable and still largely unknown and therefore any plan should be reviewed by a vessels' medical advisor:

### Departure:

- Test all crew for baseline of virus and antibody at some point.
- Several days before departure, test for the virus. Leave as soon as the results come back with negative crew members to reduce risk of exposure prior to departure. The virus has a 3-5-day incubation period so the days leading up to departure should be considered quarantine before the test and to continue quarantining while waiting for the results and departing.

### Arriving at port

- Upon arriving, test crew for virus immediately. Optional for antibody – perhaps if crew member was sick while at sea. This protects the crew, contractors, and the marina staff.
- Positive crew are quarantined. See below for more on this.

### Crew Changes

- Inbound crew member tests before leaving their country
- Upon arrival, put them up in a crew house and quarantine for 3-5 days to allow time for any exposure to incubate such that a test will be able to identify an early infection
- Test for both virus and antibody to get a baseline on the crew member
- The same should be considered for any guests coming onto the vessel.

### Managing Results

- If negative virus and positive for IgG antibody (if antibody tested), consider allowing onboard if asymptomatic for 10 days or more
- If positive for virus or IgM, hold in place. If asymptomatic for at least 10 days, test again for both virus and antibody.
- Consider release when no symptoms for 10 days and a negative viral test and no IgM with doctor's counsel.