



## University of Hawai'i Diving Safety Program

### COVID19 ADVISORY #8

#### MODIFICATIONS TO DIVE BOAT CREWING GUIDELINES

On March 23 2021, the UH Diving Control Board convened to review current local COVID19 Pandemic public health trends and guidance with implications for the conduct of UH research diving activity. At issue specifically was a question whether current crewing limits on small craft operations might be relaxed in certain circumstances, allowing a greater number of participants. Based upon this review, the DCB approved the following guidance to UH diving supervisors:

**REGARDING DIVE BOAT CREWING:** Based on its current understanding of various identified sources of information (CDC, Hawaii DOH, Honolulu C&C), the UH Diving Control Board recommends the following to supervisors of UH diving operations (i.e, Lead Divers, DPIC) from small craft:

- Standard vessel capacity limits are allowed if all personnel voluntarily disclose that they have been vaccinated.
- For activities with one or more participants not vaccinated or whose status is undetermined, prior crewing restrictions still apply.
- Supervisors are reminded that vaccination status is a personal choice, and should not be a source of workplace pressure.
- Other COVID mitigation measures previously specified in UHDSP COVID Advisories continue.
- The above are recommendations. The ultimate decision whether to allow an increase in vessel crewing numbers must be addressed at the departmental and supervisory level.
- The above are subject to change as further information is obtained.

**Note:** UH Office of General Counsel has advised that it is acceptable for a supervisor to ask a diver's vaccination status in order to make the above and similar decisions. However it is not acceptable to ask the reasons someone chooses not to be vaccinated, as this may be an infringement on medical privacy.