



Learn to paddle. You'll love where it takes you

May 25, 2020

To our Paddle Canada instructors

First off, we want to thank you for your patience while the Paddle Canada Board of Directors, Program Committee chairs and staff have been navigating our way through the current Covid-19 crisis, professionally and personally (and voluntarily for most!)

We have come up with a way that we believe that sanctioned Paddle Canada courses may resume. We have considered Health Canada recommendations, looked at what each province is doing, we have consulted with other organizations within the outdoor industry, and have had many internal conversations amongst our Directors and the Chairs of each of the Paddle Canada disciplines.

We have come up with some guidelines that we believe each instructor should consider and follow before, during and after delivering a Paddle Canada course. First and foremost, the most important thing is to **ensure you are in compliance with local and provincial government rules**. Secondly, before you take anyone out on the water, you will take your own, and your students, health and safety the same top priority as you would have pre-Covid.

Please be advised, that while our insurance provider is still offering insurance to Paddle Canada at this time, be aware that under the policy, communicable diseases are NOT covered. Therefore, if a bodily injury claim was made against a Paddle Canada instructor relating to COVID-19 it would not be covered under the policy. To read the full disclaimer, click [here](#).

We also strongly believe that NO Paddle Instructor should deliver a course if they are not comfortable in doing so, regardless of possible demand from students, nor should any instructor pass judgement on another instructor if they are comfortable with teaching. That said, if you feel at any time that an instructor is delivering a program NOT in compliance with local rules, we ask that first you discuss with the instructor at a professional level before you take it up with local authorities. Please do not involve the Paddle Canada office in a situation that involves local, provincial and federal orders and regulation.

If you have not already visited the Covid-19 page on our website, we encourage you to do so. We are trying to keep it updated with resources such as links to government websites, current best practices, and tips from the field. If you have any tips you'd like to share with your fellow instructors (such as this [rescue video](#) from two of our sea kayak instructors) please forward them to [us](#)! If you have an operational plan that you have re-developed, and are willing to share with others, that would also be welcomed resources.

BEFORE you advertise and register any Paddle Canada course, please go through this [checklist](#) to ensure your course may be sanctioned.

All the best in your paddling, and remember safety is a top priority,

Jeff Martin
President
Paddle Canada

Michelle McShane
Executive Director
Paddle Canada

December 4, 2014