

## **Notice to Mariners - 09 of 2020 – CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)**

### **Medway Navigation Update**

The Upper Medway navigation is now open for the entire length as from Monday 18th May 2020. All checks and inspections of the navigation are up to date and all manual locks are operational.

Following updated government guidance on outdoor activities, some restrictions on the recreational use of our Waterways in England are eased with effect from 13<sup>th</sup> May 2020.

There are no longer any restrictions on how far you may travel to access our waterways in England but you must travel in your own car, alone or only with members of your own household. Do not leave home if you or anyone in your household has symptoms of Coronavirus/Covid-19. You may meet one other person who is not a member of your household but you must travel separately, adhere to social distancing rules and keep at least two metres apart from anyone outside your household at all times. The Government have clearly stated that it is far too early to make fundamental changes to the social distancing requirements in relation to the Coronavirus emergency.

To stay safe, you must take hygiene precautions when you are outside. Good hand hygiene is essential to keep you and others safe and well. We encourage you to frequently clean your hands whilst you are on our waterways using an appropriate hand sanitizer. Please wipe touch points when portaging around or going through our locks, using sanitizing wipes or a cloth with a small amount of sanitizing gel. This advice should extend to the touch points on your vehicle when you return to it and you should thoroughly wash your hands and equipment as soon as you are back home. Please be responsible and follow government guidance on social distancing, hygiene and wearing appropriate PPE. Particularly at locations which can become congested such as lock sites, footpaths and moorings. Additional advisory signage has been placed at all lock sites.

During the lockdown, we had to pause most non-essential navigation activity. We are now starting to recommence routine maintenance in line with government guidelines. Please exercise caution when using our sites and navigating, and be wary of obstructions which may have been deposited over winter. Please help us by reporting any such problems on 0800 80 70 60.

Your craft must be properly registered for use on our waterways and you must adhere to navigation legislation and byelaws at all times. Significant or serious breaches of the coronavirus restrictions should be reported to the police on 101 or the local police website, as they have powers to deal with people breaking coronavirus rules.

In order to protect our staff and customers the following services will not be available until further notice;

- No assisted passage at Allington Lock (unless essential and pre-arranged with the lock-keeper)
- No non-essential maintenance works on the navigation.
- Environment Agency slipways & toilet/shower facilities will remain closed (water mains, electric points and pump outs will be available)
- Allington Lock office will remain closed.
- We will not accept any cash payments only cards.

Please enjoy the use of the navigation in a responsible way. Stay alert and safe as we continue to respond to the challenges of coronavirus.

Yours sincerely



**Jason Adams**  
**Waterways Operations Manager, Upper Medway Navigation**  
**19<sup>th</sup> May 2020**

*Please contact [joshua.roots@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:joshua.roots@environment-agency.gov.uk) if you no longer wish to receive these notices.*

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