

Frequently Asked Questions and Answers

Erie Yacht Club Operations under the Covid-19 Restrictions



Rev 7.1 Updated 5/30/20 Governor Wolf issues new guidance on Dining Operations counties in Yellow and Green zones. EYC to start offering Dining and Beverage (yes Alcohol!!!) service on Deck. In addition, Lighthouse and Boat Rental operations will open. All changes made are in Black text; see pages 1,2,4,5,6

Rev 6.1 Updated 5/22/20 Sale of Alcoholic Beverages, Last day to launch boats

Rev 5.1 updated 5/8/20; Boat maint. and EYC members from outside Erie County

Rev 4.0 Updated 5/2/20; Release to "Yellow" status

Rev 3.0 Updated 4/28/20; Re-open of Launch facilities and misc. updates

Note: The following FAQ are offered to inform EYC Members of actions taken by your club to remain in compliance with Local, State and Federal Rules. The Covid-19 pandemic and the impact on our club and our nation is a highly fluid and dynamic environment. The questions and the answers below can (and will) change. The FAQ below is the Management, Bridge and Board's interpretations and are not meant to be any kind of hard and fast rule. We are monitoring the news and have had conversations with local officials including the health department. These answers represent our best attempt to understand what we can and cannot do as a club. A marina, by its very definition, is a recreational, non-essential business. As such it would not take much of an infraction to cause a complete shutdown of the facilities. We are asking members to think about the entire club and not your own political or social leanings when you choose to engage in an acceptable behavior in the eyes of the state and the health department. You can wax your boat, as an example, but you cannot have a waxing party. Please do your best to be considerate of the Club's overall objectives and be smart and this will soon be over.

Please understand that this is an evolving situation and efforts will be made to update the below text based on latest information available. Updates will be noted by amending the date on header of this text.

Is the Club Open?

A: This depends on the activity.

OPEN

Food Service –

Dining and Beverage service on EYC Deck and surrounding lawn (weather permitting) will be available starting 6/5/20. "First come first serve basis" only; no reservations.

Dining hours of operations will be 11:30 to 2pm and 5 to 9 pm Tuesday to Sunday

Beverage hours of operations will be 11:30 to 2pm and 5 to 11 pm Tuesday to Sunday

Takeout food service is available Tuesday thru Sunday 5 to 9 PM. Takeout food can be enjoyed at picnic tables located at EYC lighthouse.

EYC staff will deliver your food to your vehicle parked in front of club for pick-up.

See your E-newsletter for menu and further details. Menu for deck and take-out will be the same.

Club House Bathrooms – Are now open. Enter using the West Club house entrance. Access to rest of club house will be restricted to employees only.

Lighthouse – Will be open starting 6/5/20. Picnic tables are available.

Lighthouse bathrooms – are now open.

Rickloff Boathouse Bathrooms – are now open.

Grounds – the grounds are open to Members. Member may perform repairs/maintenance on boats in storage. Members are free to visit and walk the grounds. Members are required to adhere to "Social Distancing" and use face masks.

Boat launching facilities – As of May 1 boat launch operations will resume at EYC.

Boat Ramp – the Ramp is open for use by Members.

Fuel dock – Fuel dock and pump out station is open to Members. Members are required to adhere to "Social Distancing" and use face masks.

(Continued on next page)

Member Slips – Members are free to use their boat and jet ski slips. Members are free to self-launch boats and may place their boat/jet ski's in their assigned slips.

Boat Rental – Boat rental operations will start on 6/5/20. Vist EYC web site for details.

Dry Sail – the dry sail area is open.

Jr Sailing – Summer children programs are now permitted under Yellow so the childrens lern to sail program will be held. Adult learn to sail is still on hold.

Note: CDC, State and local guidelines call for all above Members are required to adhere to "Social Distancing" and use face masks while on EYC property. Gatherings of more than 25 people are not permitted. Frequent washing with hand sanitizer is encouraged.

CLOSED

Clubhouse – is closed until further notice. Business office and managers are available via phone and private appointment.

Bar, Galley and Banquet operations are closed until further notice.

Club bathrooms are Open.

Rickloff Boat House – will soon be open to Jr Sailing bathrooms are open now open.

Adult learn to Sail – is still on hold.

Playground – is closed.

Q: When will the club "reopen"?

A: EYC grounds are now open. EYC clubhouse deck and surrounding proper is open effective 6/5/20 offering customary food and beverage service will be available. Please consult the EYC web site for menu options.

The Club house indoor dining and beverage service remains closed.is At present we are operating under limited "yellow" release which does not permit use of the clubhouse indoor services. It is our hope that release to "green" will occur in June permitting fuller utilization of the clubhouse.

Q: What actions will EYC take to protect the members and staff from Covid-19?

A: All CDC guidelines and those of the health department will be part of the response. Rest assured that we are lucky to have Commodore Lund at the helm during the COVID-19 pandemic. We are fortunate to have his expertise as he oversees COVID-19 response for all NW PA Hospitals as set forth by the Pennsylvania Medical Society – of which Commodore Lund is past President. We're in good hands.

Q: What are the guidelines for Members on club property?

A: CDC, State and local guidelines call for all above Members are required to adhere to "Social Distancing" and use face masks while on EYC property. Gatherings of more than 25 people are not permitted. Frequent washing with hand sanitizer is encouraged.

Q: Has the CDC issued guidance on use of recreational facilities?

A: Yes The CDC issued guidance on visiting parks and recreational facilities. According to Wolf, the following guidelines must be followed statewide by businesses and when engaging in outdoor activity:

Stay close to home: Pennsylvanians are encouraged to enjoy permitted outdoor recreational activities within their community and avoid crowding popular destinations.

Practice social distancing: Maintain the recommended minimum 6 feet apart from fellow recreationists. Pennsylvanians are also encouraged to wear a mask or protective garment that covers the nose and mouth any time they go outside. If a parking lot at a park is full or there are too many people on the same trail, find an alternate place to recreate.

Minimize risk to others: Individuals should only go out if they feel healthy and have not been exposed to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19.

Practice good hygiene: Wash hands often with soap and warm water for 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use a hand sanitizer containing at least 60 percent alcohol. Avoid surfaces that are touched often, such as doorknobs and handrails.

Have a plan: Create a safety plan before heading outdoors. Explain to children the need to keep their distance from others, even if they happen to see a friend while outside. Discuss with partners, social distancing while on the golf course. Think through how to avoid other runners when waiting to safely cross a street at the same time.

Q: I have a Social/ Catering event planned at EYC I need to issue/ rescind my guest invitations ...so I need to know when a determination will be made...What should I do?

A: For those of you with private events, Catering Manager Elizabeth will be reaching out to each of you to reschedule your event. Be aware, if and when the Governor allows hospitality operations to open, there may still be restriction on social distancing. For example, there may still be restrictions on whether large private gatherings can take place. Like so much involved with this pandemic, there are many unknowns and unanswered questions.

Q: Will there be a Memorial Day Opening Ceremony?

A: Commodore Lund has decided to move "Opening Day" ceremonies from Memorial Day to July 4, 2020 at 10 am . EYC first "Opening Day" celebration was held on July 4, 1895 so we will be following a very old tradition in moving this important EYC event.

Q: What about some other May events?

A: All events for the month of May have been cancelled or postponed.

Kentucky Derby is rescheduled for September 5, 2020 ... EYC will be hosting its traditional party on this new date. The 125th Anniversary Dinner will be rescheduled details to follow....

"Opening Day" is rescheduled for July 4 at 10 AM.

Q: Will I be able to bring my guest when the club reopens?

A: The Governor and the local health department will dictate a lot of this. It is our intention to be as open to 'business as usual' as is possible without risking the health and well-being of our members. More details will be announced as we receive information from State and local authorities.

Q: Will my Dues be adjusted for the period operations are limited?

A: EYC has considerable fixed costs that must be covered during the time and as such dues are a very important part in keeping your club solvent. So at present, there is no plan to reduce or adjust dues.

Q: I am experiencing financial hardship due to the Covid-19 emergency. Does EYC offer and special payment plans to help me?

A: Undoubtedly there will be some hardships and the Bridge and Board feel strongly that some accommodations may be made to ensure that all members of EYC continue to enjoy their club well in to the foreseeable future. Should you find yourself in financial distress please contact the business office. All cases are handled confidentially on a "case by case" basis. Do not wait until you are delinquent; please call before you have problem.

Q: Is the Club ok financially?

A: For now the club is financially stable. Please keep in mind this is your club and we are a not for profit organization. As such we operate at near breakeven and have minimal cash reserves. Unfortunately EYC does not qualify for aid to businesses recently passed recently by Congress. We have taken aggressive steps to reduce staffing and control cost. In difficult times members can help their club survive the pandemic by pulling together. We cannot stress enough that this is your club and it will do as well financially in proportion to the patience and understanding needed during this unprecedented time. If members panic and make decisions to pull their support of EYC then there is no guarantee of future performance. Rest assured that your Bridge and Board are studying every scenario and making sound and responsible decisions for the future of EYC.

Q: Can I paint my boat?

A: Painting is permitted.

Q: Can I wax my boat?

A: Waxing is permitted

Q: Are marine service suppliers (mechanics, etc.) permitted to work on EYC premises on member's boats?

A: Yes, the yard is open. Social Distancing must be observed.

Q: Can I launch my boat?

A: You can launch your boat (self-launch) at the ramp or the various cranes.
As of 5/1/20 EYC will resume launch operations. Call the office to reserve your lift time.

Q: Normally I have to have my boat launched by Opening day. Has this date been extended?

A: Yes. All boats are to be launched no later than June 14.
After June 14 Grounds and Dock rules for late launching will apply.

Q: Can I operate my boat?

A: If your boat is in the water you may operate your boat. Social Distancing rules apply.

Q: Can I be on the grounds of EYC?

A: Yes, while following proper safety guidelines as set forth by the Governor and CDC.

Q: Can I use the Lighthouse?

A: Yes, Light house is open, picnic tables are available for member use.

Q: Are the rest rooms open?

A: Yes; West Club entrance to clubhouse will be open from 8 am to 11 pm allowing access to the rest rooms. Note access to balance of club will be closed off with hallway doors closed. The east club house restroom will be reserved for EYC staff use.
Rickloff boat house and Light house rest rooms are now open.

Q: Can I use the playground?

A: No, the playground falls into the restricted category.

Q: Can I order takeout food?

A: Yes! We hope you will help support your club. Lunch and Dinner service is being offered..... For latest info use the below link:

<https://www.erieyachtclub.org/the-house/menus>

Q: Is “dine in” food service available at the club?

A: Starting 6/5/20 dining and beverage service will be available on EYC Deck and surrounding lawn (weather permitting).

No reservations will be accepted; service is on first come first serve basis.

Dining hours of operations will be 11:30 to 2pm and 5 to 9 pm Tuesday to Sunday

Beverage hours of operations will be 11:30 to 2pm and 5 to 11 pm Tuesday to Sunday

Takeout food service is available Tuesday thru Sunday 5 to 9 PM. Takeout food can be enjoyed at picnic tables located at EYC lighthouse

Please consult EYC website for menu. Menu will be same for “take-out” and “dine-in” service.

In accordance with the Governor guidelines the following will apply:

- Members and Guest will be required to wear masks while entering, exiting, or otherwise traveling throughout the food service area and bathrooms. Face coverings may be removed while seated.
- Members and Guest must be seated at a table for service.
- Members and Guest are prohibited from bringing and alcoholic onto food service area.
- Tables will be spaced to provide at least six feet between each table. Members and Guest are not to move tables.
- Tables will be limited to a maximum of 10 people.
- While waiting to be seated parties must observe 6 ft spacing.

Note failure to comply expose EYC to fines and place EYC food and Liquor licenses in jeopardy.

Thanks in advance for your cooperation !!!!

Q: Can I order a Drink?

A: Yes as of June 5 you will be able to order and consume a drink while seated at a table on the Deck. Bar remains closed at this time.

A select number of tables will be dedicated for beverage only service.

Q: Can I order takeout drinks?

I’ve seen restaurants that offer takeout also offer beer, wine takeout, why doesn’t the Club offer that service?

Governor Wolf just signed new legislation regarding sale of Alcohol. Does this allow EYC to now sell take out drinks?

A: The Clubs liquor license does not allow for takeout liquor sales. The Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board issues many different liquor permits or licenses, such as for restaurants, hotels and clubs. Each type of licenses comes with different restrictions. In our case, the Club has what is called a “Catering Club (CC)” license. A Club Catering license does not allow a club to sell alcohol for off-premises consumption. (Those operations you see selling takeout beer and wine have a Restaurant (R) liquor license which does permit off premise consumption.)

The new legislation signed this week by Governor Wolf does not apply to the “CC” type of license held by EYC. So for now take out service for alcoholic beverages is not possible.

Q: Will there be a race season for the sailors?

A: We think so, but the initial part of the season is most definitely compromised. EYC and the Fleet Chair Aaron Ackerman are monitoring the situation and as soon as there is anything definite there will be a notice to racers. If we do have a season, and there is a good chance we will, the guidelines for Covid 19 will most likely impact our gatherings at a minimum. Guidelines for Covid 19 for each boat will also need to be observed. There will be more on this as the story develops.

Q: Can the cruising fleet operate?

A: Same thing for the cruising fleet. Guidelines for Covid 19 for each boat will also need to be observed. There will be more on this as the story develops.

Q: Have Adult or Junior Learn to Sail classes been cancelled?

A: Children summer activities are now permitted under new guidelines issued by Governor Wolf. So Children learn to sail program will take place.

Adult learn to sail is still on hold. Announcement will be issued in the future as more information is available.

Q: Can boats raft up?

A: Raft ups are one of those social gatherings that we, as boaters, will need to be careful about. Guidelines for Covid 19 for each boat will also need to be observed.

Q: Can I buy fuel?

A: Yes you can buy fuel.

Q: Can I pump out?

A: Yes and because Covid 19 issues impact this there will likely be updated protocols.

Q: How will water levels impact the club?

A: At the top of the list for the grounds committee and the B&B is ensuring safety during these record high water levels. Some of the greatest risks from a safety POV are the electrical boxes at the base of the pedestals. Once underwater these Pedestals and entire docks may need to be shut off. In addition, the concrete "mafia" blocks and other clean fill that we have been using has dried up because the concrete plants have not been operating. Once the materials are available to resume Dock Master, Mike Argeny, and his crew will continue fortifying our external walls and the physical plant of the Erie Yacht Club.

Beginning with the layout of the property, the lowest areas that are the most susceptible to high-water related issues are the roadways and docks from slip B-02 to slip A-02, slip G-14 to slip H-11, slip I-01 and along the front wall of the clubhouse, and the lift well and fuel dock area.

Members are asked to be aware of the ever changing water levels and mind the barriers and posting limiting access during high water events.

This season, the fuel dock will be staffed and open for business as much as the water level permits. The design of our current fuel dispensers consists of independent electric motors positioned at the base of each unit. Once the water level compromises the electric motor, the dispenser must be turned off. The west dispenser (gasoline) is the lowest and will likely not be in use for most of the season. The middle dispenser (gasoline) is a few inches higher and will be continuously monitored for safe use. The east dispenser (Diesel) is on the highest ground and was rarely affected directly by high-water, however, the power feed to the fuel dock comes from H-Dock. In most cases, when it is time to turn off the middle dispenser, it is time to turn off H-Dock, in turn shutting down the entire fuel dock.

The Wi-Fi access points in the basin needs electricity that may have been shut off due to high water issues. Not only will Wi-Fi access in close proximity to the 'shut off' access point be impacted, but the entire basin Wi-Fi is impacted due to load balancing issues. The bottom line? Wi-Fi will not be 100% until 100% of the power is on.

Q: I recently traveled outside Erie County? Can I visit the club?

Q: I am returning from my winter home? Do I need to “self-quarantine” before visiting the club?

A: Members who recently travel out of town, or live in areas which are under “Stay at Home” type orders due to high penetrance of Covid-19 should “self-quarantine” per CDC standards before visiting EYC.

Those who have traveled or live in areas with low penetrance of Covid-19 which are not under a “Stay at Home” type order may visit EYC in the same fashion and in accordance with CDC guidelines as local EYC members.

The goal being to protect those living in low penetrance area from being exposed visitors from higher risk areas of the country.

Q: I live on my boat during the summer. Can I do so this year? If yes what are the rules I must follow?

A: Members who live in areas which are under “Stay at Home” type orders due to high penetrance of Covid-19 should “self-quarantine” per CDC standards before visiting EYC. Currently if you travel to Erie, you and your travel companions are required to self-quarantine for 14 days. You could not participate in launching your boat and would have to make arrangements for this work. Access to clubhouse is presently not available. Once clubhouse is opened you would be prohibited from clubhouse use during self-quarantine period.

Members who live in areas with low penetrance of Covid-19 which are not under a “Stay at Home” type order may visit EYC in the same fashion and in accordance with CDC guidelines as local EYC members. You are free to launch and live aboard your vessel. Access to clubhouse is presently not available. Obviously these requirements are in flux and further guidance will be offered when possible.

If you have paid your slip fees, the slip is yours for the year. No boats will be placed in your slip other than a visitor, if that is even allowed. If you never launch, there will not be any fine or added cost other than payment of the slip fee.

If you choose to cancel your slip cancellation policy as defined under Dock Rules would apply. Consult the members only web site for full copy of these rules