



South Pacific Underwater Medicine Society  
Incorporated in Victoria A0020660B

ANZCA House, 630 St Kilda Road, Melbourne VIC 3004, AUSTRALIA  
Company Business Number 29299823713

## Withdrawal of SPUMS Guidance documents relating to SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19)

SPUMS has decided to withdraw its key guidance documents which relate to COVID-19, with effect from 1 January 2024.

These documents were as follows:

- SPUMS return to diving post COVID Flowchart
- Diver post COVID review Questionnaire
- Diving medical fitness post COVID Certification

The reasons for withdrawing the documents are as follows:

- High vaccination rates in Australian and New Zealand populations coupled with lower virulence of current SARS-CoV-2 variants has meant that the health threats from the disease are now reduced.
- Mild COVID infections in vaccinated divers have not been demonstrated to affect fitness to dive. Divers have successfully returned to diving once asymptomatic.
- Current expert medical opinion is that COVID-19 infections can be managed in the same way as for other seasonal virus infections.

**It remains SPUMS position that all divers should maintain currency of their vaccinations against seasonal viruses (including COVID and influenza).**

Divers who experienced complications from COVID infections such as cardiovascular, pulmonary, central nervous system, persistent reduced exercise tolerance or “long COVID”, should be managed and investigated on a case-by-case basis.

SPUMS Executive Committee will monitor future developments relating to COVID, and will provide further guidance should it be deemed necessary.

*Neil Banham*

**Dr Neil Banham Hon SPUMS President**  
**On behalf of the Executive Committee**  
**14<sup>th</sup> December 2023**