

## Ionian Dolphin Project IDP; April 2021 update on COVID-19

During the COVID-19 pandemic, in an effort to slow down the spread, many countries are applying temporary restrictions on travel from countries outside the EU by closing borders. Some countries have also applied national border closures and/or border checks at their borders or when moving between different regions at the national level. These restrictions are subject to a continuous evaluation of the epidemiological situation by countries and they change frequently.

### Advice for those travelling to Greece

**If you intend to travel in the EU, including Greece, check the European Commission [Re-open EU web platform](#) containing real-time information on borders, available means of transport and tourism services in the Member States.**

At the moment of compiling this info the situation is as follows:

- all travellers wanting to go to Greece are subject to the requirement for a pre-departure negative PCR test. The test must be taken within 72 hours prior to arrival (certificate must be issued in English and include passport number or national identification number of the traveller). Children aged 10 and under are exempted.
- Upon their arrival, passengers will also be subject to random testing (rapid tests).
- All travellers arriving in Greece from abroad must complete a 7-day quarantine. In case of a positive test result, they will be quarantined for 14 days.

However, the Greek government has announced that from **14th May 2021** tourist will be able to travel to Greece. In order to be able to travel to Greece travellers must either be vaccinated or have a negative test. Additionally, when tourists will arrive at the airport, they may be subjected to a sampled, targeted control with the innovative "EVA" system at the airport, rapid tests will be used and there will be isolation hotels for positive cases, and health protocols will apply.

COVID-19 tests are available at many major hospitals in Greece, as well as at the specially configured testing point of **Athens Medical Center, located at Athens International Airport** on the "Arrivals" level, between exits 2 and 3. The testing point operates daily from 07:00 until 23:00. You may proceed for testing without an appointment, after having completed the necessary registration & payment procedure through the electronic platform <https://payments.iatriko.gr/>. Test results will be delivered to you, by email, within approximately 24 hours. Response time varies according to sampling time or volume of tests. More detail on collaboration between Athens international airport and the Athens Medical Group for covid-19 diagnostic tests at the airport at:

<https://athensmedicalgroup.com/strategic-collaboration-between-athens-international-airport-and-the-athens-medical-group-for-covid-19-diagnostic-tests-at-the-airport/>

If needing urgently COVID-19 tests or exhibiting possible symptoms, you may contact the **COVID-19 hotline at 1135** for guidance on testing and referral for medical care.

Travelers are recommended to contact testing centres in advance for appointments and not expect to be able to test and receive results the day of travel. Test results may be delivered by e-mail or in hard copy provided in person; consult with the testing facility regarding the method results are communicated for your specific circumstance.

### Measures taken by the Tethys Research Institute - IDP

(These may be amended depending on the evolution of the situation and advice by health authorities)

**Please note that all of the measures are subject to change. Measures not listed here may be implemented if this is deemed necessary. We will be starting our research season and welcoming our first project participants from 6th June.**

**Participants in the Ionian Dolphin Project must present at the moment of their arrival to our field base, when meeting our research personnel, the negative result of a PCR or antigen test taken within the last 72 hours**

(Any participant not fulfilling this requirement will not be allowed to join our team. Those planning to visit Greece before joining the IDP must keep in mind that they will have to be tested negative, once in Greece, within the 72 hours before meeting our personnel in Vonitsa)

### Local laboratories close to the Ionian Dolphin Project headquarters performing Covid-test:

#### IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS:

Covid Test	Time for results	Cost
Antigen test (rapid test)	Within 1 hour	20 EUR
PCR (polymerase chain reaction)	Within 24 hours	60 EUR

- All three labs listed below work exclusively Monday-Friday.
- It is recommended to contact testing centres in advance for appointments.
- In all three Labs somebody among their staff speaks English.
- Participants doing a PCR test in any of these facilities must keep in mind that to have results available by Sunday, on arrival to the IDP, they will need to be tested on Thursday. Otherwise, if tested on Friday, their results will not be available until Monday and their participation in the IDP will be consequently delayed.

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The key measures that will be implemented by the IDP during your stay with us are listed below:

- IDP headquarters will be cleaned and disinfected by a local company following protocols developed by Greek health authorities before the arrival of a new group of project participants (i.e., weekly);
- All areas must be well ventilated and there will be always access to running water and soap to allow good hygiene practice;
- Face masks will be required inside of the field base whenever participants will be working together if the minimum safety distance of 1.5 m cannot be maintained (project participants should bring their own masks <https://www.who.int/news-room/q-a-detail/coronavirus-disease-covid-19-masks> )
- The best and most consistent way of preventing the spread of the coronavirus—and reducing risk of contracting it— remains washing your hands with soap and water as a first choice, and avoiding touching your face as much as possible (use of gloves should not replace hand washing!);
- Alcohol-based hand sanitizer dispensers will be also distributed in different areas of the IDP field base (project participants are encouraged to bring also some of their own);
- A dishwasher reaching high temperatures to guarantee complete disinfection is available on site. Any occasional dishwashing by hand will be done with running hot water and wearing gloves with dish soap;
- The distribution of beds will guarantee a distance of at least 1.5m with other participants;
- Participants are kindly required to bring their own bedsheets and towels (laundry facilities are locally available);
- The IDP research boat is an open deck spacious 7.2 m long RIB (rigid inflatable boat) equipped with an outboard Yamaha 200 HP 4 strokes engine. While onboard there will be a constant natural ventilation and crew members will be able to maintain a minimum distance of 1.5m between them;
- When using the IDP vehicle everybody (driver included) will be using masks and windows will be opened for ventilation;
- Every morning all team members, participants and IDP staff will have their body temperature taken and logged;
- If anybody shows Covid-19 symptoms- a cough, fever, shortness of breath - there will be a protocol for dealing with it, including isolating that person and informing the relevant local health authorities.



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We take this situation very seriously, and the safety of our staff and project participants is our top priority. Our researchers will take the utmost precaution to help our participants having a safe, educational and enjoyable experience at the IDP.

PLEASE, participants in the Ionian Dolphin Project should sign the declaration below, scan it or take a picture with a cell phone and send it to [tethys@tethys.org](mailto:tethys@tethys.org) before getting to Greece.

I, \_\_\_\_\_, participating in team IDP\_\_\_\_,  
between \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ declare that **I have read and I have understood the IDP Expedition Briefing and the measures taken by the Tethys Research Institute - IDP in response to Covid-19 and I will adhere to them during my stay at the IDP.**

Sincerely yours,

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date (dd/mm/yyyy)