

Ahoy Puddle Jumpers,

As many of you are already aware, ramifications of the Covid-19 virus pandemic are expanding daily, as world leaders take unprecedented steps to slow the spread of this illness.

Yesterday Andrew Glasspool of the Jeanneau 44 Tintamarre shared this info from his yacht agent, Fernanda Rivera M:

“Good day to everyone, this is very important. The Government of Ecuador has just closed all entries to the country, by land, sea, and the airports. No one will be able to enter the country or arrive to Galapagos in any way. I'm truly sorry about this, but it was just announced today due to the Corona Virus having become a pandemic situation worldwide.”

Ian and Ann of the Allures 45 Tourterelle shared this news about Panama:

“Yesterday Panama closed its marinas to new arrivals and immigration was closed for both arrivals and departure, and no Zarpes are being issued. However, we did hear today that some boats got Zarpes in Flamenco but that was the only place open. The situation is due to be reviewed next week.

“So maybe not quite as drastic as the initial information yesterday and it is certainly a fluid situation. We have also been told there will be no small boat transits through the canal for two weeks - after which the situation will be reviewed.”

Since that report, however, have told us that transits are still being scheduled.

We'll do our best to keep the Puddle Jump fleet informed about additional policy changes due to the pandemic — especially in the islands, should changes occur. In the meantime, we hope you'll enjoy the peaceful solitude of sailing in mid-ocean if you're lucky enough to be out there.

Safe travels,

— Andy Turpin
Pacific Puddle Jump