

2021 COVID-19 Response Plan

UPDATED 5/24/2021

Overview

These guidelines were prepared in accordance with industries' (USA Triathlon, International Triathlon Union, USAT&F, Running USA and others) best practices for open air mass participation sporting events including protocols from World Health Organization, C.D.C. and State of Michigan guidelines and protocols. We are also following Kent County and local authority guidelines as instructed by them.

In order to maximize the safety of our event, we have made a number of operational and venue changes for the 2021 event year. These changes include:

- Initial limit on total number of participants at the event to 600. This limit was removed on 5/21/21.
 - **On 5/20/2021: The state of Michigan announced that beginning Tuesday, June 1, all outdoor capacity limits will be removed including at sporting events.*

Sanitization

- Ample signage on-site encouraging social distancing, hand washing, and sanitizing.
- Provide multiple hand washing and sanitizing stations.
 - Restrooms
 - Finish Line
 - Post-finish area
 - Transition
- Portable Toilets
 - Space toilets out instead of putting them side by side.
 - Mark out spots in lines, 6' apart.

PPE

- ALL participants, staff and volunteers will be provided with a cloth mask. This mask consists of two layers of durable knit performance fabric, the internal layer features a slit that can hold a filter for additional protection.

- In addition, ALL participants will be provided with a disposable mask to use while waiting in line for the swim portion of the event, to be discarded in race supplied trash containers at the swim start right as they enter the water.
- *Masks will be REQUIRED for all NON-FULLY VACCINATED participants, staff and volunteers at all times when not actively racing. **Per the CDC's recommendations posted on 5/13/2021 and the MDHHS on 5/14/2021*
- We will NOT be policing who is vaccinated and who is not, the event will be a non-judgement zone. We are asking each participant to be responsible and follow the current local, state and federal guidelines.
- Gloves will be provided to all staff and volunteers.
- Hand Sanitizer stations/containers will be provided throughout the race site, transition, finish and aid stations.

Packet Pick-Up/Pre Race

- Packet pickup will take place on Saturday, August 21, 2021.
- As of this time, packet pickup will take place outdoors, at the Wolverine YMCA.
- Athletes will have specific times to pick up their packet and drop off their gear to try and reduce the number of people onsite.
- Athletes will have the option to check their bikes into transition the day before the race. This will reduce the amount of time spent in transition on race day.
- Non-fully vaccinated participants will be required to wear a mask at the Packet Pickup. Full vaccinated individuals will NOT need to wear one. Again, participants will need to be responsible for following the current local, state and federal guidelines.
- All participants will be required to fill out and sign the USA Triathlon Athlete Medical COVID-19 Questionnaire at packet pickup in addition to our USA Triathlon Waiver. Failure to do so will result in the athlete not being able to participate in the event.

Pre-Race Briefing

- TBD

Expo

- We will have a limited number of expo spots available to sponsors at our outdoor packet pickup.

Body Marking

- Athletes will be asked to body mark themselves the night before/morning of the event with directions we will provide. Limited marking may be available the morning of the event and markers will be sanitized between volunteer users.

Athlete Drop-Off/Shuttles

- Athlete drop off will be in the same location as previous years.
- Alternate option is to take race-provided shuttle buses that will be running from our offsite race parking (location TBD) to the Athlete drop-off area
 - The number of athletes allowed on the shuttles at one time will be determined by the shuttle company and current guidelines at the time of the race

Awards

- On-site awards ceremony is cancelled as of now. That may change as we get into the summer.
- Awards will be available for pickup at a later date and can be mailed for an additional cost.

Course

- **Transition Area**
 - We will not be doing temperature checks race mornings as athletes arrive on-site as per recommendations from our medical provider.
 - Transition racks will feature 4-6 bikes per rack instead of 8.
 - Bikes will be alternating sides and staggered on the rack.
 - Rows will be spaced out 10'.
 - We will have two aisles of one-way traffic to reduce potential congestion points. These will be a minimum of 10' wide.
 - We will not be grouping people on racks by race as we have in the past.
 - We will have close to 200 racks available.
- **Swim**
 - Swim start procedure is being reviewed and will be announced soon.
 - Non-fully vaccinated athletes will be required to wear a race-supplied disposable mask up to the swim start and then dispose of it prior to entering the water in trash receptacles at the swim entrance.
- **Bike**
 - Course is new and will avoid the busy section of Lincoln Lake Road. Please visit our website for more information and course maps.
 - We are NOT a draft-legal event so athletes spacing will not be an issue. The very nature of this portion of the event spaces participants out.
- **Run**
 - Course will be the same in 2019.
 - Athletes will be encouraged to maintain proper social distancing.
- **Finish Line & Post-Race Food**
 - Volunteers will place medals on tables and restock as needed as opposed to placing them around the athletes neck.
 - Athletes will remove their own timing chips and discard into a race-supplied chip return bin.
 - Disposable face masks will be provided immediately at the finish for non-fully vaccinated athletes who have completed the race.
 - Finish line food will be primarily pre-packaged food and will be served as one unit in a carry-out box.
 - Each athlete will proceed down the finish line chute after returning their timing chip, getting their medal from one table and finish line food from another.
 - Medical will be on site and at the finish for all athletes that need attention.

- **Aid Stations**
 - We will keep the same number of aid stations, but liquid and on-course nutrition will be self-serve with no direct transfer from volunteer to athlete.
 - Signage will be on display at aid stations that clearly prohibit the spitting out of water and spitting in general.
 - Volunteers will keep the aid station tables stocked with drinks/nutrition as needed.
 - This may allow for a reduced number of volunteers for various parts of the event.
- **Relay Exchange Zone**
 - We are looking into having a timing chip for each athlete to reduce the need to swap one chip between multiple athletes.
 - Once the incoming athlete crosses the line into the exchange zone the outgoing athlete will be released. This allows for a contactless exchange.

Medical

- Metro Health, our presenting sponsor, will once again be providing on-site medical support for the event. There will be a finish line medical tent as well as support at key points on the course.

Volunteers

- Our revised protocols and reduced touch points may allow for a smaller total number of volunteers needed.
- We will be having an outdoor volunteer orientation the week of the event so that all PPE and best-practice guides can be distributed at that time.

Spectators

- How many spectators we allow on site is TBD as we get closer to the event.
- IF there are limited spectators allowed, athletes are asked to let them know their predicted finish time so they can limit the amount of time spent near the finish line.
- Athletes will be asked to convey to their friends and family the potential importance of limiting the number of people with particular attention being paid to potential choke points such as the finish line and swim start.