

# International Rocky Mountain Stage Stop Sled Dog Race

COVID 19:

Plans, Protocols, & Procedures for 2021

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### **SECTION 1 - Acknowledgment and Purpose:**

To be sure, we are in strange times. We find ourselves with the world in the midst of a pandemic and although there has been some good news with a vaccination, cases continue to climb. Some of us have mostly been affected by changes in lifestyle and behavior. Others may have lost a close friend or family member and our thoughts go out those who have suffered.

Unfortunately, many races have been cancelled. We, at the Stage Stop have taken the approach that with planning, willing cooperation, and an attitude of personal responsibility by all involved, we will keep moving forward and not cancel the race

We have given significant time and effort to come up with a plan outlining protocols and procedures to help protect the safety of our race staff, mushers and handlers. Our goal is to have a safe, responsible race that follows a strategic plan.

We do need full cooperation for the plan to be effective. This applies to race staff, mushers, and handlers.

### **SECTION 2 - Stage Stop COVID 19 Plan Outline:**

This plan is intended to serve as a procedural guideline to assist event organizers and crew in avoiding and reducing the potential exposure and spread of COVID19.

#### Components:

1. Crew and teams arrive COVID 19 free
2. Establish a bubble
3. Practice group structure
4. Use precautions
5. Monitor health
6. Address symptomatic individuals
7. Define stop point

1.Crew and teams (mushers and handlers) arrive COVID 19 free

- Crew and teams encouraged to adhere to typical health protocols to greatest extent possible for 10 days prior to travel.
  - Pre-race “PCR” testing
2. Establish a bubble
    - Crew and teams required to take Antigen Rapid Test on Friday January 29.
  3. Practice Group Structure
    - Crew and teams limit unnecessary contact with persons outside their group
    - When group to group communication is necessary, precautions are used
    - Individuals who are group diverse should be extra cautious
  4. Use precautions
    - Regular handwashing and sanitizing
    - Use masks when appropriate, particularly when in indoor confined spaces
    - Practice social distancing to the greatest extent possible particularly when outside of your group
    - Lay low – refrain as much as possible from social activities
  5. Monitor health
    - Perform daily health exam and report possible symptoms
    - Crew and teams to take an Antigen Rapid Test mid race (see pages 8-9 “Testing Program and Procedures”)
  6. Address symptomatic individuals
    - Perform rapid test and direct individual to contact a health care provider
    - Individual will be “off duty” and self-quarantine in quarters and await instructions from health care provider.
  7. Define Stop Point
    - When minimum required crew is unavailable
    - When required to by law
    - When bubble is broken.

### **SECTION 3 - Modifications to Race Format & Functions:**

The following is a list of modifications to the race format and social functions:

- There will be no ceremonial start on Friday January 29, 2021.
- Vet check and driver meeting at Jackson rodeo grounds.
- All community functions are canceled.
- All driver meetings to be held outdoors or in acceptable “out of the elements” location.
- Limited capacity and assigned seating at final banquet based on venue size and local restrictions with social distancing in place. Banquet may be cancelled depending on conditions. Participation will be voluntary.
- The race will not promote spectators at any stage. As staging areas are on public land, any spectators present, will be encouraged to follow all state guidelines by posted signage.

## **SECTION 4 - Precautions and Behavior:**

All participants including race crew, mushers, and handlers are expected to willingly and diligently adhere to the following precautions and behaviors.

### **Before Traveling:**

Please do your best to self-quarantine for 10 days prior to traveling. This may not be entirely possible depending on your personal and occupational situation but diligence regarding normal precautions such as mask usage, personal hygiene, and limited interactions can be followed. If you are traveling by air, please be extra cautious.

### **Daily Health Assessments:**

Please monitor your own health and report any of the following conditions.

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

Persons displaying any of the above conditions should report them immediately by phone or text message to one of the following race officials:

### **PPE, Hygiene, & Distancing:**

The race will follow any federal, state, or municipal guidelines and adopt the following practices.

- **Personal Hygiene:** Everyone should frequently wash their hands, use sanitizer, avoid touching their faces, and practice social distancing, particularly when engaging with individuals outside your group or the race bubble.
- **Mask Usage:** Masks will be mandatory for mushers or handlers when engaged with the veterinary team. Masks will be mandatory for all participants during drivers' meetings.
- **Social Distancing:** Social distancing of at least six feet will be practiced to the greatest extent possible.
- **Group Structure:** The race will adopt a "group structure" whereby individuals who share similar duties will make an effort to keep within their group, not only when on duty but when engaged in other activities such as eating or relaxing.

## **SECTION 5 – Testing Program and Procedures:**

- **Persons testing positive after October 1, 2020 and before January 15, 2021:**
  - Anyone who can provide proof of a COVID 19 positive PCR test or provide documentation from a physician that you had COVID 19 within this timeframe is eligible to participate and is exempt from further testing.
  - Persons in this category are still required to follow all other protocols outlined in the plan, including mask usage, personal hygiene, and social distancing.
- **Persons who do not meet the above criteria are required to take a PCR test on or before January 15, 2021.**
  - If your test results are positive you are eligible to participate and are exempt from further testing. **TEST MUST BE TAKEN ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 15, 2021 FOR THIS TO APPLY!!!**
    - **DOCUMENTAION IS REQUIRED!**
    - If you do test positive, you should consider contacting your physician and begin self-isolation to the greatest extent possible. For this reason, we highly recommend getting this test done **AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!**
  - If your PCR test results were negative, you will be required to take an antigen rapid test on Friday January 29<sup>th</sup>. Antigen rapid test will be supplied and administered by the race organization.
    - If this test is negative, you are eligible to participate
    - If this test is positive, you will be required to take another rapid test approximately 12 hours after the first test and a third rapid test on Saturday morning January 30, 2021. If the second and third rapid tests are negative, you are eligible to participate. If either the second or third rapid tests are positive, you are not eligible to participate and must leave the race bubble.
    - For those who are not exempt from testing, an additional antigen rapid test will be administered at some point mid-race. Time and place to be determined. If this second round of rapid testing results in a positive, the same re-testing protocols are in place (see paragraph above).