

2021 Covid Plan

If required by state or local mandates, we are prepared to produce this event in such a manner as to meet all of the most stringent guidelines revolving around crowd size and social distancing practices.

We successfully produced the YMCA Wrightsville Beach Triathlon back in September using our Covid plan. We received no negative feedback from anyone; participants, volunteers, local government officials, or local medical personnel.

Our goal for this event is to be able to produce it under normal (or close to normal) conditions. However, we are prepared to utilize our Covid Plan if required and can do so with as little as 48 hours notice.

Basic Concept of our Covid Plan:

First and foremost, every aspect of this event is outdoors. There are no indoor activities or facilities.

The key to our Covid plan is to implement a Time Trial start vs. Wave Start.

The Covid plan calls for all participants in the race to start the race (the swim) one-at-a-time – with about 10 seconds of separation between participants.

The normal process for beginning a triathlon is to have participants segmented into groups of about 75-100, and everyone in that group begins the race together – in what we call “Wave” starts. Groups are then separated by a few minutes as they start the race.

The Time Trial start is what changes the entire dynamics of large groups of people huddled closely together. That is eliminated with a Time Trial start.

Masking:

Participants will be required to wear a mask until they get to the swim start line – at which point, they will be able to get rid of their mask.

At the finish line, a volunteer will hand each participant a mask to put on until they depart of the race venue.

Participant Registration/Check-In:

The check-in procedure will be very easy and simple. Participants will provide their name and they'll be handed their race numbers, their race shirt, and timing chip.

Temperatures will be taken for everyone checking in.

Pre-Race Crowd Control:

At a triathlon, the central gathering area for all participants is the Transition Area. This is the fenced in area containing bike racks. The transition area is where competitors position their bike and all their gear. This is one of the places where participants gather prior to the race. This is where they come after the swim and to start the bike portion of the race. It's where they come after the bike and to begin the run portion of the race.

Typically, in normal times, our 10 Ft. long bike racks accommodate 6 participants – 3 on each side of the bike rack. Bike racks are normally spaced about 12 feet apart.

In our Covid plan, the bike racks are set up to accommodate only 4 participants – 2 on each side of the rack. The bike racks are also spread out a little further – approximately 15 feet apart.

There's an image attached which illustrates this.

Race Start Procedure:

The Covid Plan will convert this event into a "Time Trial" start.

Participants will start the race – one at a time – starting about every 10 seconds.

The Race Start area will involve a pennant line chute that forces participants into a single-file procedure. This single-file pennant line chute also alerts participants through the use of orange cones, that they need to remain 6 feet apart.

The pennant line chute is long enough to accommodate approximately 50 participants.

This time trial procedure keeps participants adequately separated on the race course.

Race Finish

As soon as participants come across the finish line following their run, a volunteer will tell each competitor that they need to remove their timing chip anklet themselves before exiting the finish line chute. As soon as they do that, the volunteer will hand each participant a mask.

Post-Race Food/Drinks

Post-race refreshments will consist of bottled water, soft drinks, and pre-packaged snack food. Volunteers will lay out the food on a series of tables and participants will help themselves.

Award Ceremony

Awards for this race are all the same – they are not individually customized. As such, all the awards are laid out on a table and as award winners are announced, they simply come forward and take an award off the table.

The area for the award ceremony is huge, so there is ample room for people to socially distance following the race.