



This document is to form a COVID-19 (also known as the Coronavirus) action plan based on recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. It should be noted that this plan is a LIVING DOCUMENT, and can be changed based on the current situation in the area. Further restrictions can be made, based on recommendations from community stakeholders, and a more comprehensive plan for the safe start to the event will be created and passed on to athletes as the event draws closer.

COVID-19 is categorized as a respiratory disease and has been detected in over 100 locations internationally. The number of reported incidents in the United States has been increasing over the past few weeks and many mass-gathering events have been cancelled or postponed, due to threats specific to their area.

The CDC's current risk assessment (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/summary.html>) states that the immediate risk of being exposed to the virus that causes COVID-19 is thought to be low. There is not widespread circulation in most communities in the United States. Furthermore, the assessment is that people in places where ongoing community spread of the virus that causes COVID-19 has been reported are at elevated risk of exposure, with increase in risk dependent on the location. Due to this assessment, we will be actively monitoring the number and location of cases of COVID-19 in the immediate area.

The CDC has prepared a document on Interim Guidance for event planners (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/large-events/mass-gatherings-ready-for-covid-19.html>). The following information is based on that document and should be used to help prepare the RunSBY Events, currently scheduled for Saturday, April 3, 2021, for a mass participation event, spreading throughout Wicomico County.

BEFORE THE EVENT

Identify the at risk audience

"The current population of at-risk persons includes Older adults and people who have severe underlying chronic medical conditions, like heart or lung disease or diabetes, seem to be at higher risk for developing more serious complication from COVID-19 illness." These parties are encouraged to avoid crowds as much as possible.

Emergency Operations Plan

The current emergency operations plan has input on the course of the event with members of the Maryland State Police, Wicomico County Sheriff's Office, Salisbury Police Department, Fruitland Police Department, and the Salisbury University Police Departments.

Wicomico Emergency Management is the lead organization on the coordination of the emergency personnel of the event, bringing their command post to a centralized location with members of Fire, Police, EMS in the post. This event is conducted under the NIMS/ICS concept system, with each division being responsible for their designated role. David Fitzgerald has been our POC for the WEMA.

The Race Director, Jason Chance, is a current law enforcement officer, familiar with the NIMS/ICS system and is available as logistical help, but does not interfere in the operations of emergency personnel.

EMS Captain Chris Truitt and Medical Director Kerry Forrestal are key members of the planning committee, ensuring that there is adequate medical coverage both on course, and at the finish line area.

Relationship Development

In 2020, with the threat of COVID-19, the Wicomico Health Department Health Officer, Lori Brewster, has been introduced as a point of contact. Jason Chance will communicate all health related incidents and precautions, as they are implemented. Jason Chance has also given Lori Brewster a copy of current registrants, and will continue to do so as registrations come in, prior to the April 3 date. This information includes name, age, and city/state of residency.

Address Key Prevention Strategies

The RunSBY Events will be sending out periodic emails to all participants, and making social media posts, for the currently registered participants, and will continue to do so as long as the registration period is open. These emails will promote the daily practice of everyday preventable actions. These activities will include:

- Stay home when are sick
- Cover your coughs and sneezes with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash
- Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands
- Clean frequently touched surfaces and objects daily

RunSBY will also provide COVID-19 prevention supplies at the event.

- Additional hand washing stations have been added to the Start Line and Finish Line area of the event. These areas are the area that are of the greatest concentration of people at one time.
- DEFINITION – Aid Stations are areas, along the run route, which are manned by volunteers who hand the runners water, sports drink, and some type of food.
- Liquid soap and water for Aid Station volunteers to be able to wash their hands will be made available at each of 16 aid stations.
- Nitrile gloves will be provided at every aid station for MANDATORY use by the aid station volunteers.
- Aid stations will serve food that is pre-packaged to reduce cross contamination

- Water and sports drink coolers at the aid stations will be filled with water from sealed gallon containers and gloves will be worn when refilling
- Hand sanitizer pumps will be available at all aid station for runners to utilize

RunSBY will promote messages that discourage people who are sick from attending the events.

- A liberal deferral program will be communicated to registered athletes, that will allow them to use their 2021 entry for the 2022 RunSBY events, at no charge.
- Virtual race tracking will be encouraged for spectators, which allow for some one not in the area to follow an athlete of their choosing online, giving them the opportunity to cheer on their athlete, without being on site.

RunSBY events already has a 20x60 foot medical tent, with controlled access, at the finish line of the event. In the past two years there has been minimal use of this facility, but there will be an additional area that participants or spectators who become ill may be taken. Currently this area will be a separate 10x10 tent with sidewalls, located at the farthest side of Camden Street. This location allows for separation of the parties from the larger crowd, and still allows for egress to PRMC, or any other designated facility.

Communicate about the COVID-19

If there is any emergency communication that needs to be passed along to staff members, the Wicomico Command Center will have the ability to coordinate through the radio channels. This will include patching to all Fire/EMS/Law Enforcement assets assigned to the event. Key staff members will also be provided radios, as in years past, from WEMA.

In addition, athletes, volunteers and spectators are ALL encouraged to download and install the TCR Event Management app, which is the home for the RunSBY Events app. This app will allow us to send out any Push Notifications to all parties. This will allow for us to have rapid communication with everyone with the app. This has been used in the past (2018/2019) to remind people to hydrate while spectating and volunteering, when the weather was hotter than expected.

INTERNAL STEPS RunSBY has enacted

It should be noted that this event is atypical of many of the mass gatherings that have been recently cancelled. Even the inclusion of the New York City Half Marathon in the list of cancelled events should be categorized as atypical of our event. Many of the events being cancelled have a large international field, or have multiple participants coming from areas with active COVID-19 outbreaks. The NYC Half Marathon was scheduled to have over 25,000 participants, with even more spectators, concentrated to tightly spaced streets and areas. Many conferences, that have been canceled, can be found in large buildings with re-circulated air conditioning systems, which are problematic with an airborne virus.

In 2019, RunSBY had the public packet pick up, where athletes came to get their timing chips, shirts, etc, at the Guerrieri University Center at Salisbury University, in the Wicomico Room. In 2021, to prevent the

use of an indoor facility, which may cause similar risks with re-circulated air, the packet pickup location will be under a large 20x60 tent in the area of Lot 1's lower side (approximately 100 Circle Avenue). RunSBY has explained to Parties Etc, the tent provider, that the tent sidewalls should be left off, to allow for air circulation. At the conclusion of the event, RunSBY staff will place the sidewalls back on for security as the medical tent the next morning.

On race morning, athletes are typically transported over to the Start line from the Salisbury City Garage (110 Circle Avenue) by shuttle bus. The start line is located at the intersection of S Park Drive and Sheffield Drive. A recommendation to reduce mass transit use will be sent to all participants, and they will be encouraged to walk to the Start line, in lieu of the shuttles.

The athletes typically queue up in the area of the start area together, but there are not enough participants to warrant doing corrals, which are typically separated by hard barricade. Instead, athletes will be informed that they are receiving a CHIP TIME as their start. This means that when an athlete crosses the START line, their time officially starts. This allows for athletes to space themselves out, creating physical separation, and yet still receive their official times. AS THE NUMBER OF ATHLETES INCREASES, CONSIDERATION FOR WAVE CORRALS WILL BE CONSIDERED, DEPENDENT ON THE RECOMMENDATION AT THAT TIME.

Athletes will be encouraged to carry their own water bottles with them. By encouraging them to carry their own water bottle, they will be able to refill it with water from the gallon jugs, and therefore reduce possible contamination from other runners running past a cup of water that has been prepared and sitting at a table.

Conclusion

RunSBY Events, and the owner organization TCR Event Management LLC, is understanding of the current health crisis in the State of Maryland, the United States, and the World. By following the CDC guidelines, and working with local Emergency Management and the Wicomico Health Department, and in cooperation with our Health partners at Peninsula Regional Medical Center, we want to put on the very safest events for our athletes and for the community.

We believe that the implementation of the aforementioned emergency operations and communication plan can help this mission of putting on a safe and healthy event. We look forward to working with our Local, County, and State partners in fulfilling this mission. Any recommendations to implement, within reason, will certainly be looked at and evaluated. If the decision is mandated that the event must be cancelled, by an agency with that authority, that decision will be honored and implementation of an alternative plan will be enacted.