Midwest Morris Ale COVID policy

Updated 3/4/2023

The MWMA will create community health procedures toward the following goals:

- Minimize the risk of participants being exposed to COVID during a Midwest Morris Ale in-person event
- Mitigate the impact of potential exposures to COVID if/when they are identified
- Provide actionable contingency plans for different pandemic scenarios that maximize safety for all participants
- Protect the financial health of the Midwest Morris Ale Association Inc.

Every year the MWMA Board will delegate a task force of members from different teams (including at least one member of the host team) to review the COVID Procedure below and propose to the Board a procedure that responds to current needs using current scientific and public health understandings to best support these goals. The Board will approve the Procedure for the current year by a simple majority vote.

The COVID Procedure for the current year will be shared with the community when registration opens or before. The Board and the host team will make an effort to implement the procedure as initially shared, but will make adjustments if public health circumstances call for them.

Host teams' specific responsibilities will include:

- Appointing a COVID czar
    - The COVID czar is responsible for enacting the COVID Procedure for the current year
- Appointing a team member to participate in reviewing the COVID Procedure
- Working with venues to ensure that MWMA follows the venue's COVID policy
- Communicating COVID procedures during the event

COVID Procedure 2023

I. REQUIREMENTS FOR ATTENDING THE ALE

A. Vaccination

The Midwest Morris Ale will require proof of up-to-date vaccination from each person who attends the Ale. This means that each participant will have received all COVID immunization shots they are currently eligible to receive, including the primary series of 1 or 2 shots and a recent (within a year) booster shot.
https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/stay-up-to-date.html

Our procedure is intentionally flexible to adapt to CDC guidelines as they continue to change.

There are two ways to provide proof of up-to-date vaccination status:

1. Upload a photo of your vaccine record card when you register for the Ale (recommended).
2. Present your vaccine record card (or a copy or digital photo of your card) at check-in when you arrive at the Ale.

We strongly recommend providing your vaccine record ahead of time, to expedite your arrival process at the Ale. If you forget your vaccine record card and are unable to present it at check-in, you will not be permitted to attend the Ale, and we cannot guarantee a refund of your registration fee.

The Midwest Morris Ale will handle all vaccine records (electronic and paper versions) with full confidentiality, as we do with financial and payment information. These records will be deleted from our database after the 2023 Ale.

If you are not “fully” vaccinated due to a medical reason, a “Medical Exemption” may be possible. Please contact the COVID Czar for more information.

B. Testing

A negative on-site COVID test result will be required prior to entering the Ale. Because access to testing and test kits can vary depending on a person’s geographic location, the Midwest Morris Ale will provide rapid antigen test kits for each registered participant to use at the Ale.

Screening process:

- ***Arriving at the Ale.*** Each attendee will be asked to take a rapid antigen test at the registration desk prior to entering the Ale site.
    - If an attendee receives a positive COVID test result when arriving at registration, that person will not be permitted to enter the Ale site.
    - Housing for someone who receives a positive COVID test result is not guaranteed, nor is it for their travel companions.
    - **We will not be able to offer a refund to participants who test positive, or to people who traveled to the Ale with them in the same vehicle.**
    - Attendees arriving by plane will be required to take their rapid antigen test at the airport, prior to getting into the airport shuttle.
        i. If an attendee tests positive at the airport, they should contact the COVID Czar for support.
        ii. For more details, see section V below.

- ***Screening during the Ale.***

- Each attendee will be asked to take a second rapid antigen test during the Ale
- Test results will be reported to the registration desk.
- If a person receives a positive test result at this time, the Midwest Morris Ale will initiate protocols for a positive test, including isolation if appropriate and a contact tracing interview (see Section V).

C. In addition to the COVID screening provided on-entry and during the Ale, we strongly recommend that people follow these best practices:

1) ***Before the Ale begins.*** We encourage people to:
   - Follow CDC guidelines for safe travel, including staying up-to-date with vaccinations.
   - https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/travel-during-covid19.html
   - Monitor COVID risk in your area, be mindful of masking indoors.
     - Get a COVID-test before traveling to the Ale.
     - Minimize your exposure risk while traveling to the Ale

2) ***During the Ale.***
   - We expect all Ale attendees to follow the COVID screening and safety procedures while at the Ale.

3) ***Following the Ale.*** Traveling to and attending the event will increase your COVID risk. We encourage people to:
   - Monitor your own health
   - Wear a mask when around others
   - If possible, quarantine for a few days following the event
   - Before returning to normal activities (work or school outside the home), consider taking a COVID test 3-4 days after the Ale.
   - If you receive a positive test result after returning home from the Ale, we encourage you to contact Ale staff so we can notify other Ale attendees about a possible exposure

💡 We strongly encourage you to test before you leave for the Ale, as rapid antigen tests are available to you. We also strongly encourage you to take a test 3-4 days after the Ale.

II. SAFETY MEASURES and PPE

We will abide by the host venue's masking policy. The venue's policy is linked here: https://www.ymcanorth.org/adventure/covid-19_safety

MWMA recommends but does not require masking indoors. Please be respectful of others' needs.

The Midwest Morris Ale will provide masks for each registered participant to wear during the event. The masks we provide will be in accordance with current CDC guidelines (KN-95 or KF-94 masks are recommended, with surgical masks as a second choice). Participants are also encouraged to pack their own masks.

III. REFUNDS

In the event that a participant cancels due to COVID-related reasons before the Ale begins (within 10 days):

1. Cancellation for a COVID-related reason (e.g. close contact):
    - We will offer a partial refund and cannot guarantee a whole refund.

2. Cancellation due to a positive COVID test result within 10 days of traveling to the Ale:
    - We will offer a partial refund and cannot guarantee a whole refund.

3. Cancellation due to receiving a positive COVID test result during screening at Ale check-in:
    - We cannot guarantee a full refund.

4. Cancellation due to a travel companion in the same vehicle receiving a positive test result at registration:
    - These travel companions will not be permitted to attend the Ale.
    - We cannot guarantee a full refund.

Questions about refunds and COVID should be directed to registrar@midwestmorrisale.org.

IV. CANCELLATION / CONTINGENCY PLAN

Conditions for cancellation of the in-person 2023 Midwest Morris Ale:

1. Cancellation due to extenuating COVID-related circumstances
    - If local health authorities prohibit gatherings such as the one we are planning, we will cancel the event. Already-registered participants will be offered full refunds.
    - The Board Officers, the Board, and the Organizing Teams will continue to monitor ongoing public health news, and may cancel the event.

V. PROCEDURE FOR POSITIVE COVID TEST RESULT

People who receive a positive test result at arrival to or while at the Ale will talk with the COVID czar, or their liaison, about additional masking requirements, contact tracing questions, and their next steps, including plans for departing the Ale. The organizing teams will work with the venue to set aside some rooms for people who need to stay in isolation until they depart the venue, as possible.

The MWMA Board has authorized the event COVID czar, in cooperation with the Board president, to assist community members who may test positive at the event and suffer undue financial burden because of rapidly changing travel plans or the need to pay for off-site accommodation. Five thousand dollars ($5000) from the organization's financial aid fund has been set aside for these expenses, should they arise.