



## **Operational and Safety Guidelines**

**Updated: August 26, 2021**

## Summary

The Operational and Safety guidelines have been revised based on current guidance from both the CDC and the Ohio Department of Health in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. These guidelines were created with input from Summit County Public Health, Summa Health, Ohio Race Coalition, and the board, staff, and committee members of the Akron Marathon Charitable Corporation. Guidelines are subject to change as public health orders continue to evolve.

The Akron Marathon Charitable Corporation went through a detailed information gathering and benchmarking process and have established the following guidelines for returning to racing.

### 1. Enhanced Hygiene

- a. Hand sanitizer, hand washing stations will be readily available at various race venues. Cleaning of common venue areas/surfaces will be enhanced.

### 2. Self-Monitoring and Education

- a. Staff and volunteers will be trained on social distancing requirements.
- b. Participants, staff, and volunteers will be required to acknowledge they understand the health and safety guidelines.

### 3. Capacity

- a. There is a 1,000 in-person capacity in the Marathon
- b. There is a 3,500 in-person capacity in the Half Marathon
- c. There is a 4,000 in-person capacity in the 5-Person Team Relay
- d. No spectator limit.

### 4. Contactless Services/Distancing Measures

- a. Reduced points of interaction between staff, participants, and volunteers without compromising event safety and security. Redesigned areas such as packet pickup, start, and finish lines to minimize person-to-person contact.
- b. Fluid stations will be reconfigured to minimize volunteer to participant contact.
- c. Signage and markers will be used to enforce social distancing.
- d. One-directional foot traffic will be encouraged.

### Risk of Attending the Event

Attending a mass event with people from across the country and the world poses a risk for possible exposure and infection of COVID-19.

### High Risk Individuals

The risk for severe illness from COVID-19 increases with age, and for those with certain medical conditions. Severe illness means that the person with COVID-19 may require hospitalization, intensive care, or a ventilator to help them breathe, or they may even die.

### Additional Risks

- Risks associated with resuming training in a communal environment once shelter in place restrictions are lifted.
- Risks associated with travel.
- Risks associated with participating in a mass gathering event, even with safeguards and restrictions in place.

### Sources of Exposure

Anytime there is contact with a person who is infected with COVID-19 there is a risk of personal infection. Changes in community transmission may warrant additional precautions.

## Ways to Reduce Exposure per guidelines per Ohio Department of Health

### • Masking

- If you are not fully vaccinated against COVID-19, consider wearing a mask that covers the nose, mouth, and chin when:
  - In any indoor location that is not a residence.
  - Outdoors, if it is not possible to consistently maintain a distance of 6 feet or more between people who live in different homes/households.
  - Riding, driving, or operating public transportation, or a taxi, car service, or ride sharing vehicle. (This does not apply to members of a household sharing a private or rental vehicle.)
- If you are fully vaccinated, you may be asked to wear a mask in certain situations, such as when traveling on public transportation, in an aid tent, or in a confined space.
- A mask should never be worn by/placed on anyone who:
  - Is younger than 2.
  - Cannot remove it without assistance.
  - Risks choking if wearing a mask.
  - Is sleeping/napping.
  - Is living with a medical condition that makes it unsafe to wear a mask. This includes respiratory conditions that restrict breathing, mental health conditions, or disabilities.
  - Is swimming. (Wet masks can cause difficulty breathing.)
  - Risks workplace health, safety, or job duty if wearing a mask.

### • Congregating, Social Distancing, and Sanitizing

- If you are not fully vaccinated:
  - Attempt to maintain at least 6 feet of distancing from others.
  - Avoid gathering in groups when possible.
  - If you gather, maintain groups of no more than 10 people, separated from other groups by at least 6 feet.
  - Wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, or use hand sanitizer, when entering a facility.
- Consider performing a daily health assessment and stay home if experiencing fever, cough, or other signs of COVID-19.

### Attending the Event

Criteria for attending the FirstEnergy Akron Marathon, Half Marathon & Team Relay:

- Runners and volunteers will be required to be fully vaccinated (with proof of a COVID-19 vaccination card) or have a negative COVID-19 test result 72 hours before the race to participate. This protocol was updated to help protect the health and safety of the public in light of the increase in COVID-19 cases and is aligned with best practices for mass gatherings.
  - The Akron Marathon defines “fully vaccinated” as individuals who are two weeks after their second dose in a two-dose vaccine series or two weeks after a single-dose vaccine. Proof of vaccination may be presented as a hard copy, photocopy, or digital version of an immunization record.
  - Those that are not fully vaccinated must provide a negative COVID-19 test result for a test administered within 72 hours of attending the FirstEnergy Akron Marathon, Half Marathon & Team Relay. Based on national standards, accepted COVID-19 tests are those that have received FDA emergency use authorization and also include RT-PCR, RT-LAMP, lateral flow, and antigen tests.
- Runners
  - Proof of vaccination or negative COVID-19 test will be required to pick up an in-person race bib at the Akron Marathon Health & Fitness Expo on Friday, Sept. 24.
- Volunteers
  - Proof of vaccination or negative COVID-19 test will be required at volunteer check-in and prior to reporting to your volunteer post.

- Spectators
  - Spectators should watch the race from the spectator viewing areas; north of the Start Line, Mile 4 one block west of the Start Line, Bowery & Broadway, and Mile 12 on High Street. Runner-only areas will be strictly enforced including the Start Line Corrals, Exchange Zones, and the Finisher's Festival.
- Free from symptoms that align with COVID-19
  - Fever or chills (100.4 or greater is considered a fever)
  - Cough
  - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
  - Fatigue
  - Muscle or body aches
  - Headache
  - New loss of taste or smell
  - Sore throat
  - Congestion or runny nose
  - Nausea or vomiting
  - Diarrhea
- No known contact with individuals with positive diagnosis of COVID-19 in the past 14 days.
- It is suggested that those who are high risk or older adults not attend race related events.
- Those who do attend are encouraged to follow the individual responsibilities below.
- Anyone who becomes ill during the event should report to a medical volunteer. That individual may be sent for testing, if COVID-19 symptoms are present.

### **Participant Responsibility**

- Keep your distance from other participants.
- Utilize hand sanitizer stations regularly and before consuming any post-race foods.
- Unless fully vaccinated, wear a mask in all race areas, except while participating on the course.
- Cover your cough and sneezes.
- No spitting or snotting along the course route or when others are around.

### **Volunteer Responsibility**

- Keep your distance from others.
- Utilize hand sanitizer stations regularly.
- Unless fully vaccinated, wear a mask at all times.

### **Individual Spectator Responsibility**

- Keep your distance from others.
- Utilize hand sanitizer stations regularly.
- Unless fully vaccinated, wear a mask at all times.
- It is encouraged to stay home and track your participant using the Akron Marathon Race Series App.

## **SEE PAGE 5 FOR FIRSTENERGY AKRON MARATHON HALF MARATHON & TEAM RELAY CHANGES BY AREA ONE-PAGE OVERVIEW**

Resources used in developing these guidelines include:

- Ohio Department of Health, Social Distancing, Masking, and Congregating
- IRONMAN Group, Safe Return to Racing
- RRCA (Road Runner Club of America), Looking forward guidelines for races
- The Outbreak Prevention Taskforce, Risk Assessment and Mitigation Tool for endurance event organizers
- USA Triathlon, Return to Race Recommendations for Race Directors
- USA Track & Field, COVID guidelines
- World Triathlon, COVID-19 Prevention Guidelines for Race Organizers

**AKRON  
MARATHON**  
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**MARATHON  
HALF | RELAY**

**Operational & Safety Updates Overview – Updated: 08/26/2021**

Item	Return to Racing Plan (Jan 2021)	Hybrid	Normal (2019 Event)	Details
Operational & Safety Guidelines		✓		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Updated mask policy               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Masks are required indoors regardless of vaccination status.</li> <li>○ Attendees who are not fully vaccinated should continue to wear face coverings throughout race areas unless actively running, eating, or drinking.</li> <li>○ Masks may be required when traveling on public transportation, in an aid tent, or in a confined space.</li> <li>○ Facial coverings do not apply to individuals under ten years of age or those individuals with a medical condition or disability.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Social distancing is encouraged.</li> <li>• Suspended services               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Elite Athlete Program</li> <li>○ Gear Check</li> <li>○ Pace Teams</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Expo/Package Pick-Up	✓			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mask required due to indoor facility</li> <li>• Proof of vaccination or negative COVID-19 test will be required to pick up an in-person race bib</li> <li>• Maintain social distancing plan and pre-selected packet pick-up times based on indoor venue.</li> <li>• No registration at Packet Pick-up</li> <li>• No race day bib pick-up</li> </ul>
Start		✓		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Runners will start in waves of 400 with 45 seconds between each wave.</li> <li>• Start line will remain open 2-minutes after last wave for anyone that wants to maintain social distancing</li> </ul>
Course		✓		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Self-serve fluid stations</li> </ul>
Finish Line		✓		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Finisher festival is back with live band, food, and beer.</li> <li>• Self-serve food/beverage stations.</li> <li>• Awards ceremony is back.</li> </ul>
Volunteers		✓		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Safety kits distributed to all volunteers.</li> <li>• Self-serve stations along course and at finish lines.</li> </ul>
Spectators			✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No spectator limit.</li> <li>• Spectators should watch the race from designated spectator viewing areas. Runner-only areas will be strictly enforced including the Start Line Corrals, Exchange Zones, and the Finisher’s Festival.</li> </ul>

