

Traverse Update, 11-19-20

Greetings to all of our Loppet Turkey Traverse registrants. As you are likely aware, Governor Walz issued new COVID-19 restrictions last night.

We had not anticipated that they would impact our Turkey Traverse, which was structured in such a way as to ensure social distancing in a wide open outdoors environment. However, after reviewing last night's presentation by the Governor and the new guidance from the MN Department of Health on sports and outdoor recreation facilities, it is clear that the prudent course of action is to align ourselves and our participants on the side of safety and cancel both the timed and self-timed Turkey Traverse events. We have been so excited about this new event that it is very disappointing and frustrating to have to take this action when we were so close.

Unfortunately, expenses for events are almost always incurred far in advance of the events themselves with permits, shirts, awards, contractors and such. As such, we need to abide by our policy of no refunds. Please be assured that all funds will support the Loppet's mission of sharing a passion for outdoor adventure with a focus on the youth and families in Minneapolis.

We would still love for those of you who chose to receive a shirt and registered by the deadline to do so to still get your shirt. We will still have a socially-distant drive through today (Thur) from 3-7pm to pick up your shirt. We will also be at the park this weekend, Fri-Sun, 8am-4pm, to provide the shirts if you choose to come to the park. After that, we will explore options for pickup at a later date at the Trailhead. We are also inviting you to still enjoy the marked course on your own time.

As you all know, this is a brand new course that included areas we can't usually access - you can see the course [here](#). It is marked by blue arrows, blue tape and a few wrong way signs. The start is in the southwest corner of Lower Stadium (the big field in front of the Trailhead). The course markings will be cleaned up on Monday morning.

We are so appreciative of the participants that choose to put their trust in us and the volunteers that stepped up to support this new event, especially our course markers and clean up crew who are still marking the course for you to enjoy the park, trails, and course, while following the Governor's guidance on outdoor recreation which includes maintaining social distancing and no social gatherings. For a full description of the Governor's recommendations, please refer to the Guidelines for the Public section (page 6) in the [Outdoor Recreation and Facilities Guidance](#).

Please note that Governor Walz is still encouraging everyone, by themselves or with their COVID unit/household, to get outdoors and enjoy some stress-busting activity and exercise. We take this to heart but urge you to be safe. Stay home if you are experiencing any COVID symptoms (see this list of [screening questions from MDH](#)), wash your hands, socially distance, and mask up. We want you all to remain in tip-top shape until that time when we can all get together again. That time will come and we will chase some turkeys together.

The Loppet Crew