



2021 Birkie Week Safety Protocols – FAQs as of 12/16/20

This is a unique year and we hope to be back to normal for Birkie 2022! We understand that Birkie 2021 plan may not be ideal for you and your personal circumstances. However, we want you to know that we are doing everything in our power to provide a safe event experience for all skiers. For those who choose to join us virtually for Birkie 2021, we will do our very best to make certain you have a great virtual experience. Thank you for your understanding and consideration during these unusual times.

How will you provide a safe experience for skiers?

- In order to provide a safe event experience, the ABSF has removed all indoor spaces, all tents, and there will be no busing. We have limited touch points, established on-site safety protocols and practices, as well as reduced congestion at the start, finish, and on-course.

How will the virtual Birkie, Korte, and Prince Haakon work?

- For skiers with underlying health conditions, for skiers who aren't able to travel to Hayward/Cable, or for skiers who simply don't feel comfortable attending the in-person race in February of 2021, the ABSF is offering a virtual event for the American Birkebeiner, Kortelopet, and Prince Haakon races.
- Skiers can select the virtual event option during the registration process.
- Skiers may switch to the virtual option by [clicking here](#).

Will I need to wear a mask when skiing?

- Everyone will be required to wear masks in the start/finish and all common areas.
- As of today, once on the trail, skiers may remove their masks. It is possible that CDC guidelines and public health mandates may change resulting in masks being required on course.
- If skiers are unable to comfortably socially distance at any aid station, we ask that they wear their masks.
- All skiers are asked to have a mask on their person in case of emergencies.

Will the ABSF be selling Birkie masks?

- Birkie masks are currently available in the Birkie online store at www.BirkeStore.com.

How many skiers will be on site, on the course, or in a wave on event day?

- We are working with a statistician to model the overall flow of each race day (considering average pace of skiers in each wave, start times, aid station timing, etc.) and will control the number of skiers on course each day.
- Many factors go into determining wave size including speed of skiers in that wave, historic no-show rates, and data used to model and control total number of skiers on the trail and at aid stations at any given time. Waves will vary and range from 50 to 180 skiers per wave.

Is this the final plan or will there be changes in the future?

- The ABSF continues to work very closely with both medical and health officials to ensure all Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and local public health guidelines are in place for all upcoming events. Event plans are subject to change should public health mandates, guidelines or laws be amended.



If Birkie week is canceled for travel restrictions or no snow, will all skiers be able to participate virtually?

- If we are unable to host the 2021 in-person Birkie, a virtual option will be made available to all skiers.
- If we are required to change to an entirely virtual race, skiers will receive their hat, bib, pin or medal, ski ties, and ski stickers.

If Covid-19 continues to rise, will you change Birkie events?

- We monitor COVID-19 numbers on a daily basis and are in close contact with medical and health officials. We understand that numbers are rising and are uncertain what COVID-19 status might look like in February. We will only host the in-person events if we are confident that we can do it safely. We will comply with all public health guidelines and mandates in place leading up to and during Birkie week.

If COVID-19 subsides or there is a vaccine available by race week, will you switch back to a regular Birkie schedule?

- From lodging and race infrastructure to road closures, permits, aid station needs, and everything in between, we are logistically unable to switch back to a traditional Birkie week experience. We believe this year will be one for the history books as people “remember when” they were a part of this unique Birkie experience.

Will all participants be required to submit negative COVID-19 tests before participation?

- No, however, we ask that all participants complete a self-health check within 24-hours of attending their race. Details will be provided in advance of race week.
- All skiers will be asked to stay home if unwell at any time in the 72-hours prior to traveling to the Hayward and Cable areas.
- At the request of the Birkie medical team, if a skier has tested positive for COVID-19 within 90-days of the ski race, we ask them to please switch to the virtual race option.

How will you enforce the no spectator on course policy?

- We are required to follow all public health guidelines and policies, including limiting the number of people in any given area at any given time, and will take necessary steps to ensure these rules are enforced for the safety of our participants, volunteers, and staff.

Will you ban spitting on the Trail?

- We ask participants to be aware of others around them and to be courteous in their actions. If a runner must spit, we ask them to please move to the side of the trail and make sure no one is in direct line behind them.

Is there anything else I need to know?

- On the Birkie Events Update page, we’ve shared links to the Bayfield and Sawyer County Public Health Departments for your convenience in identifying the current public health status in the area.
- Safe travel practices are a shared responsibility between permanent and seasonal residents, area visitors, municipalities, the tourism industry, local businesses and workplaces to prevent the transmission of COVID-19.