



2021 Birkie Week Safety Protocols – FAQs as of 2 4 21

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. 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 choose to switch to the virtual option through February 27 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?

- 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 20 to 180 skiers per wave, each day of race week.

If Birkie week is canceled for any reason, 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 will only host the in-person events if we are confident that we can do it safely.



Is there any chance you'll switch to an all in-person event?

- 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?

- All skiers will be required to complete an eScreening health check within 24-hours of attending their race. Details will be provided in advance of race week.
- We encourage skiers to get a COVID-19 test before traveling to NW WI.
- We encourage skiers to self-quarantine for 14-days prior to traveling to NW WI.
- 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 stay home or switch to the virtual race option.

How will you enforce the no spectator on course policy?

- In an effort to promote the safest possible experience for all, we are limiting the number of people in any given area at any given time, including participants, staff, and volunteers. Spectators will not be allowed access to the race venues and we will take necessary steps to ensure these rules are enforced throughout the racecourse 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 skier 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.

Any recommendations to stay as safe as possible when traveling north or at the event?

- Skiers are asked to use the same precautions in our communities as they do in their home communities and as they are required to at the event. Please wear your mask, physical distance and be aware of others around you.

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.