

# Niagara Hospice Gran Fondo 2021

## COVID-19 EVENT PLAN



COVID-19 had a significant effect on event planning and execution details. In 2021:

- Components of the ride will be modified to reduce risk and provide for the highest degree of safety for our event participants, staff and volunteers.
- The Hospice Gran Fondo will identify and follow the limitations that are set by local, county, and state authorities. We will review 90, 60, and 35 days from event day.
- The most up-to-date Gran Fondo information is available at [NiagaraHospice.org/SpecialEvents](https://NiagaraHospice.org/SpecialEvents) or [HospiceGranFondo.com](https://HospiceGranFondo.com)

# Special Event Safety Overview

As in-person gatherings return, the Niagara Hospice event team is researching and learning from industry experts and other non-profits across the country. We are focused on following the best practices that fit the situation at the time.

Niagara Hospice will explain personal responsibilities to all participants, staff, volunteers, vendors and sponsors prior to the event. These responsibilities will be communicated via email, social media pages, and event website updates. Covid-19 protocols and responsibilities will be explained in detail multiple times prior to the event, and might change as necessary.

Because of the nature of the pandemic and ever-changing climate, changes may be made up to the last minute. All efforts will take place to make sure our participants, staff, volunteers, vendors, and sponsors have the most up to date information. Please be patient with us during this planning process as we are all learning the proper actions to take!

- Reduced touchpoints to minimize physical interactions.
- Hand sanitizer will be available throughout the event including packet pick up, high traffic areas, and rest stops.
- Hand washing stations will be set up near portable toilets.
- Face coverings will be required for all riders, volunteers, and staff during the event. Riders may remove their masks when on the road.
- Anyone at increased risk or exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 will be directed to stay home.
- Event signage will promote safe social distancing practices including maintaining 6 feet distance or more between others.
- Dedicated waiting spots/queues will be provided to aid in physical distancing in areas where cyclists congregate such as packet pick up, start line, and restrooms.
- Staff and volunteers will be provided gloves or other PPE if their role requires additional interaction.
- All food will be individually wrapped. We will use bottled water in place of the large water coolers.



# Gran Fondo Covid-19 Protocol

## Review Process

The Niagara Hospice Gran Fondo will be reviewed for safety and health risks. We want to ensure the safest environment for everyone. Adjustments to ride components will be based on the current condition of disease transmission, vaccination rates, and per state restrictions. We will evaluate 90, 60, and 35 days from the event. Any changes will be broadly communicated to cyclists, volunteers, staff, sponsors, and vendors.

## Virtual Ride

It is our intention to hold the Niagara Hospice Gran Fondo on the scheduled event day of July 24th, 2021. However, we recognize that members of our community may need different experiences based on their situation and comfort level. From riding together the day of the event to a virtual "ride your own route" option that allows cyclists to be in their own neighborhood, in smaller groups, throughout the month of July. This will allow all of our participants to continue riding together with the same goal in mind-supporting Niagara Hospice!

## WHAT TO EXPECT AT PACKET PICK-UP:

There will be no on-site registration the day of the ride in order decrease staff and volunteer interactions at the event. All participants should register in advance at [www.hospicegranfondo.com](http://www.hospicegranfondo.com). We are in the process of determining if we will have packet pick-up the morning of the ride.

Packet Pick-up will take place at Niagara Hospice on **TBD**.

- Packets will include all bibs, stickers, safety pins, shirt and any sponsor giveaways available.
- Packet pickup will be outdoors and have enforced social distancing and mask requirements.
- If conditions require it, packet pick up will transition to a drive through option.

# What to expect at the Start Line

- Portable toilets will be staged apart from one another with handwashing stations or hand sanitizer
- Our Bike Shop partners will be available at the start line/main site and along the route to ensure you have everything you need for the day. There will also be course marshals available who can do minor repairs.
- Masks need to be worn at the start line and in the rider queue-masks can be removed once you are on the road.
- When registering for the Hospice Gran Fondo-participants must choose a designated start time. We will have 15 minute start time intervals with 50 riders leaving at a time. There will be a socially distanced queue where the next wave can line up and wait for their start. More detailed information will be posted when it becomes available. \*Times are subject to change if additional waves need to be added.



## **62 Mile: Start time**

- Wave 1: 7:00 a.m. (50 participants)**
- Wave 2: 7:15am (50 participants)**
- Wave 3: 7:30am (50 participants)**
- Wave 4: 7:45am (50 participants)**

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## **33 Mile: Start time**

- Wave 1: 8:15 a.m. (50 participants)**
- Wave 2: 8:30am (50 participants)**
- Wave 3: 8:45am (50 participants)**
- Wave 4: 9:00am (50 participants)**
- Wave 5: 9:15am (50 participants)**
- Wave 6: 9:30am (50 participants)**



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## **15 Mile: Start time**

- Wave 1: 10:00a.m. (50 participants)**
- Wave 2: 10:15am (50 participants)**
- Wave 3: 10:30am (50 participants)**
- Wave 4: 10:45am (50 participants)**

# What to expect on the Route and at Pit Stops

- Cyclists will be encouraged to follow physical distancing throughout the ride, especially when passing others.
- SAG vehicles will be available on the route. If you need to ride in a SAG vehicle, please wear your mask,
- We are encouraging cyclists to bring their own water bottles. Individual water bottles will be available for refills. We will not have communal water jugs.
- Pit-stops will have pre-packaged food available as self-serve for participants. Volunteers will be there to restock, but will not serve participants.
  - Volunteers will be on site to direct riders to park at a safe distance from the food and water
  - All riders will be required to dispose of their own recycling and trash
  - Pit-stops will have extra masks on hand in case you lost yours on the route. Masks must be worn at all pit stops.
- Portable restrooms will be located at all pit stops-we will have plenty of hand sanitizer available at each stop.

## WHAT TO EXPECT AT THE FINISH LINE:

- As of 3/22/2021 social gatherings in NYS will be limited to 200 people outdoors. Therefore, we will not be able to have our typical after party. We will continue to monitor the requirements in hopes that we will all be able to gather on July 24th, 2021.
- We will provide a pre-packaged lunch for you to take.
- We are encouraging you not to bring spectators as we are trying to reduce the number of people on site.

## YOUR SAFETY IS OUR TOP PRIORITY!!

If you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions please contact Allison at 716-280-0766 or [allison.bolt@niagarahospice.org](mailto:allison.bolt@niagarahospice.org)