



## **RAPID ASCENT - CORONA VIRUS UPDATE**

17 March 2020

Rapid Ascent is monitoring the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) situation and its potential to impact our events and attendees at our events.

Our greatest priority remains the health and safety of our staff, volunteers, contractors and all event attendees, and we will continue to monitor the localised situation as we approach each event.

We are aware of the Government's announcement limiting static, non-essential gatherings to fewer than 500 people who are congregated at the one location and time.

Our current standpoint is that we intend to continue with the organisation and delivery of all planned events in 2020 but to introduce measures at each event to comply with the Government's requirements. These measures will be specific to each event and respond to the current situation but will include steps like:

- no mass starts - avoiding crowded start lines
- extended and segmented registration times
- a larger event footprint providing more space
- online competitor briefing and no presentations
- hand wash and sanitation stations and frequent cleaning of touched surfaces

The exact steps will vary from event to event but are designed so that far fewer than 500 people are together at any one time, static or moving. We will publish the steps prior to each event so attendees 'know what they are getting themselves in for' and can make their own personal assessment. A refund will be provided for those who are not satisfied with their personal level of safety (providing they notify us of their withdrawal prior to the published refund deadline date).

We believe there are a number of features of our events that by their very nature reduce the risk of COVID-19 infection for attendees. These features include:

- Relatively low participant numbers and minimal spectator crowds
- The open landscape and space in which our events are conducted
- Minimal person to person contact or touching of one another at our events, providing plenty of space for social distancing
- The relative short timeframe when people are gathered together
- Minimal attendance of international athletes from high risk countries
- The large amount of fresh, moving air at outdoor events
- Transient nature of the event

We also believe that continued activity and exercise is important for our broader physical and mental health so we don't want to restrict our community's access to their life-giving pursuits.

There is no doubt that considerable caution is needed and we will continue to monitor the situation, liaise with the relevant authorities and keep our competitors updated with our steps when things change

In the mean time we encourage people to continue to exercise, remain aware of the situation and to practise good hand and health hygiene at all times. And if you have any symptoms then get tested and self-isolate until cleared.

See you on the trails.

Rapid Ascent