



Iditarod 2021 - Return to the Trail

Dear Iditarod Volunteers, Musers and Staff,

It seems that there isn't a person on this planet who hasn't been affected by COVID19 in some way. I couldn't start this letter without first saying that our hearts, souls and minds stand with all those who have lost loved ones during this challenging time in our world. I'd also like you to know that we stand firmly with our frontline workers. They are the true superstars in all of this.

It is with the reality that this virus is still with us and would be devastating to the Alaskan communities on the trail that we created this cautious and detailed plan to race the 2021 Iditarod safely with a goal of zero COVID19 spread to volunteers, musers, staff, official media and (most importantly) communities.

We want to be abundantly clear that there is no way we would consider this effort without a plan that takes extreme measures to mitigate as much risk as possible and to protect all involved. We believe our plan will do just that. This plan was created by an experienced team of infectious disease epidemiologists led by Dr. Jodie Guest (ITC COVID19 Epidemiology Czar). This team includes Dr. Kristin Nelson (Infectious Disease Epidemiologist) and Lisa Chung and Zoe Schneider (Emory COVID19 Outbreak Response Team). Additionally, this plan has been developed in conjunction with the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services and with input from other multiple stakeholders.

We are reaching out to communities on the Iditarod trail to seek their feedback on this plan as we intend to be inclusive in the ways in which we govern, congregate and exist in communities during the 2021 Iditarod.

This race will be like no other. We are requiring each participant, (musers, volunteers, staff, official media) to undergo continuous testing during the 2021 Iditarod. This is being done to protect all Alaskans and preserve the rich tradition of our Alaskan way of life.

In advance, we thank you for your commitment to this race, the dogs, the communities and to each other.

Rob Urbach
CEO
The Iditarod

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Section II – Iditarod COVID19 Prevention Plan core tenants, key strategies and standards

Core Tenants of Iditarod COVID19 Prevention Plan

- Proactive, strategic and anticipatory
- Negative bubble with minimal interaction with community
- This year, “The Last Great Race” will be different

Key Strategies of Iditarod COVID19 Prevention Plan

- Minimize to essential personnel without compromising safety
- Negative “Bubble”
- Consistent surveillance through testing and daily health screening
- Two negative tests before travel to Anchorage for race
- Multiple tests in ANC to confirm negative status
- Mandatory masking reduces spread of COVID
- All test results/contact tracing/daily surveillance maintained by Dr. Guest and COVID Team Personnel
- Inclusive communication with all stakeholders
- Manage expectations (participants, villages, sponsors, mushers, Iditariders, etc.)
- Iditarod.com dashboard to keep track of cases/tests
- Zero tolerance for not following protocols

Standards of Iditarod COVID19 Prevention Plan

- Mandatory masking
- Required testing
- Required daily screening with questionnaire and temperature checks
- Social distance except with pod
- Routine handwashing/hand sanitizer
- Eat/sleep in Checkpoint Bubble
- Distance/approved interaction with community

Section III – Overview of Iditarod COVID19 Prevention Plan

1. Mushers Testing and Screening:

- a. All mushers will be required to provide a negative PCR Nasal Lab Test 10 days before race. This is not covered by the Iditarod.
- b. All mushers will be tested with a PCR Nasal Lab Test by the Iditarod COVID tech team at the Lakefront Hotel on the Thursday before race (3/4/21).
- c. All mushers will be given a Rapid Test at the ceremonial start on 3/6/21. If negative, mushers will be retested when they reach McGrath. If positive, mushers will be retested with a Rapid Test to rule out a false positive before the restart (for this test, if negative, the musher is set for race. If positive, the musher does not race.)
- d. All mushers will be given a Rapid Test at McGrath. If negative, the musher continues the race. If positive, the musher will move to isolation and will take their 24 hour break followed by a retake of the Rapid Test at the end of these 24 hours. If this test is negative, the musher continues the race. If this test is positive, the musher does not continue the race and a plan to isolate and return to Anchorage is initiated.

2. 10-14 Days before arrival at the Lakefront Hotel for all volunteers, staff and official media:

- a. All participants required to social distance, wear masks and hand wash regularly.
- b. All participants need a negative PCR Nasal Lab Test 10-14 days before arriving at the Lakefront Hotel. This is not covered by the Iditarod.
- c. It is required that all participants submit Health Survey Questionnaire and negative test results before travel, watch onboarding videos and sign community contract (standards, zero tolerance).
- d. All participants will receive confirmation after all documents have been received.
- e. It is strongly recommended that all participants get a flu shot if they have not already had one.

3. Within 72 Hours of Arrival at the Lakefront Hotel in Anchorage: All participants need to have a PCR Nasal Lab Test result and receive a negative result within 72 hours of travel to Anchorage/Lakefront Hotel. Participants, staff, mushers and official media should quarantine during this time. This is not covered by the Iditarod.

4. Travel to Anchorage: All participants should wear their facemasks in airports and during flights. Protective eye gear is recommended on planes as well.

5. Arrival in Anchorage: Upon arrival in Anchorage Airport (if applicable), proceed to the awaiting Shuttle. Social distancing and facemask guidelines will continue to be required. Drivers will be tested prior to pick up.

6. **Arrival at Lakefront Hotel:** Upon arrival, participants will be tested using the Abbot Labs 15-Minute PCR Rapid Antigen Test and the PCR Nasal Lab Test and will wait for the results of the Rapid Antigen Test before entering Lakefront Hotel. This will be done in the Iditarod Testing Facility outside the Lakefront Hotel. All participants will wait for the Rapid Test results before entering the Lakefront Hotel.
7. **Testing Results:** Participants with a negative Rapid Antigen Test will be admitted into the Lakefront and sequestered in their individual rooms until PCR Nasal Lab Test results are available. We anticipate a 24 hour turnaround.
 - a. **Alaska residents:** Once they have tested negative, they may be moved out of their private room and into a Checkpoint Bubble room. Facemasks and social distancing are still required at all times. Participants with a positive Rapid Antigen Test will be assigned a room at the Lakefront Hotel that is for quarantine purposes and is not in the Iditarod Bubble. Participants will await the results of their PCR Nasal Lab Test in their quarantine room. We anticipate a 24 hour turnaround. If negative, they will be moved into a Checkpoint Bubble room. If the PCR Nasal Lab Test is positive, they will stay in their quarantine room until it is safe to travel home. If anyone tests positive, COVID Team personnel will notify the individual and strict guidelines will be followed for securing proper medical attention.
 - b. **Non-Alaska residents:** Non-Alaska residents must adhere to the Governors Orders for strict social distancing upon arrival in Alaska for 5 days. If PCR was negative, and once these 5 days are over, they may be moved out of their private room and into a Checkpoint Bubble room. Facemasks and social distancing are still required at all times. Participants with a positive Rapid Antigen Test will be assigned a room at the Lakefront Hotel that is for quarantine purposes and is not in the Iditarod Bubble. Participants will await the results of their PCR Nasal Lab Test in their quarantine room. We anticipate a 24 hour turnaround. If negative and once these 5 days are over, they may be moved out of their private room and into a Checkpoint Bubble room. If the PCR Nasal Lab Test is positive, they will stay in their quarantine room until it is safe to travel home. If anyone tests positive, COVID Team personnel will notify the individual and strict guidelines will be followed for securing proper medical attention.
8. **During the Race:** At the beginning of each day, all participants will be required to undergo the Health Survey Questionnaire and Temperature Check. In the event that anyone is feeling sick based on the survey, and/or has a temperature, they will be consulted by the COVID Team personnel, and sequestered in their room or an identified location at their checkpoint. At that point, they will immediately undergo Rapid Antigen Test for immediate results and will increase Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to Level Orange gear. If the test is negative, symptoms and temperature will continue to be monitored, and participants will be able to return to duties unless symptoms continue. If anyone tests positive, COVID Team personnel will notify the individual and strict guidelines will be followed to

engage proper medical attention, isolation from others, and transportation of participant off the trail as appropriate.

9. **All participants are required to wear facemasks at all times.** Exceptions are when in room alone or eating with their Checkpoint Bubble.
10. **All participants will undergo additional PCR Rapid Antigen Testing at each of these events:** every 5 days, before any trail movements, if a Checkpoint Bubble member tests positive.
11. **Exit testing will be required** for all participants when they return from the trail to confirm negative status. Upon arrival at the Lakefront Hotel, participants will be tested in the Iditarod Testing Facility using the Rapid Test and will wait for the results of the test before entering Lakefront Hotel. Participants who do not return to Anchorage from the trail will be tested before leaving their checkpoint with the Rapid Test.
12. **Testing and COVID Team Personnel.** All COVID testing and the COVID Tech Team will be led by Dr. Jodie Guest. The COVID Tech Team consists of volunteer certified EMTs. All testing will be administered by certified COVID Team Personnel wearing full PPE gear, including face mask, face shield, hair cover, and disposable hazmat suit/gown, and 2 pair of gloves (top layer gloves changed for each person)
 - a. PCR Nasal Lab Test methods (sensitivity 98%, specificity 100%)
 - i. Nasal Testing Method for Initial and Final Testing of all participants and mushers
 - ii. Lab partner to be determined
 - iii. Lab results, up to 24 hours Abbot Labs 15-Minute PCR Rapid Antigen Test (sensitivity 97.1%, specificity 98.5%)
 - iv. Used as immediate testing, routine surveillance testing and symptom testing on trail
 - v. 15 Minute Results on-site
 - b. For Negative Results – participant permitted to work and must follow all health and safety guidelines including wearing face masks and social distancing at all times
 - c. For Positive Results in Anchorage
 - i. participant will immediately be notified via COVID Team personnel
 - ii. participant will be moved to quarantine section of Lakefront Hotel (not in Iditarod Bubble) to await results from PCR Nasal Lab Test
 - iii. If PCR Nasal Lab Test is positive, participant will be given immediate contact of medical professional for follow up and will be isolated until safe to travel home, or will be moved to the hospital as needed. They will wear Level Orange PPE when near anyone.
 - iv. Anyone who came in 6 feet or less contact of participant will have immediate temperature taken, undergo healthy survey questions, and be tested both via PCR Nasal Lab Test and Rapid Test method
 - d. For Positive Results on the Trail

- i. participant will immediately be notified via COVID Team personnel
- ii. participant will be immediately removed from community space at the checkpoint by COVID Team personnel wearing proper PPE gear (disposable hazmat suit, face mask and face shield, neck and hair covering, double-gloved)
- iii. All checkpoint spaces will be thoroughly sanitized by COVID Team personnel
- iv. Everyone in the Checkpoint Bubble will have immediate temperature taken, undergo healthy survey questions, and be tested via Rapid Test method

Section IV – “Checkpoint Bubble” Definition and Principles

1. Everyone inside “Checkpoint Bubble” has undergone the required COVID19 testing with negative results
2. Everyone inside “Checkpoint Bubble” has quarantined by themselves in hotel room until negative testing results became available
3. Everyone inside “Checkpoint Bubble” undergoes daily Health Survey Questions and Temperature Check
4. Everyone inside “Checkpoint Bubble” undergoes subsequent COVID19 Rapid Antigen Testing every 5 days
5. Everyone inside “Checkpoint Bubble” undergoes COVID19 Rapid Antigen Testing before movement on the trail
6. Everyone inside “Checkpoint Bubble” practices safety measures including:
 - a. Frequent Hand Washing/Sanitizing
 - b. Wearing Face Masks at all times when around others
 - c. Wears PPE gear as needed
 - d. Frequently sanitizes personal surfaces and work gear
 - e. Practices Social Distancing
7. Participants cannot exit and re-enter “Checkpoint Bubble”
8. Mushers, IAF pilots and participants who have been tested before travel are the only participants who can enter a “Checkpoint Bubble”
9. Community engagement with the “Checkpoint Bubble” will be community specific and agreed upon by the community and the Iditarod in advance. This includes an agreement about Iditarod’s use of Checkpoint buildings and the community’s access to these buildings during the race.
10. Areas Under Off Limits to anyone outside of “Checkpoint Bubble”
 - a. Checkpoint tents
 - b. Checkpoint sleeping areas
 - c. Checkpoint eating areas

Section V – Testing and COVID Tech Team Personnel

1. All COVID testing and the COVID Tech Team will be led by Dr. Jodie Guest. The COVID Tech Team consists of volunteer certified EMTs.
2. All testing will be administered by certified COVID Team Personnel wearing full PPE gear, including face mask, face shield, hair cover, and disposable hazmat suit/gown, and 2 pair of gloves (top layer gloves changed for each person)
3. PCR Nasal Lab Test methods:
 - a. Nasal Testing Method for Initial and Final Testing of all participants (sensitivity 98%, specificity 100%)
 - b. Lab Partners: XXX
 - c. Lab results, up to 24 hours
4. Abbott Rapid Antigen Testing method (sensitivity 97.1%, specificity 98.5%)
 - a. Used as immediate testing, routine surveillance testing and symptom testing on trail
 - b. Likely nasal or throat/tonsil method
 - c. 15 minute results on-site
5. For Negative Results – Participant permitted to work and must follow all health and safety guidelines including wearing face masks and social distancing at all times
6. For Positive Results in Anchorage
 - a. Participant will immediately be notified via COVID Team personnel
 - b. Participant will immediately be given PCR Nasal Lab Test
 - c. Participant will be moved to Hotel X to await results from PCR Nasal Lab Test
 - d. If PCR Nasal Lab Test is positive, participant will be given immediate contact of medical professional for follow up and will be sent home, to an isolation site or to the hospital as needed. They will wear Level Orange PPE when near anyone.
 - e. Anyone who came in 6 feet or less contact of participant will have immediate temperature taken, undergo healthy survey questions, and be tested both via PCR Nasal Lab Test and Rapid Antigen Test method
 - f. Positive participant will be kept in isolation until safe to travel home
7. For Positive Results on the Trail
 - a. Participant will be immediately notified via COVID Team personnel
 - b. Participant will be immediately removed from community space at the checkpoint by COVID Team personnel wearing proper PPE gear (disposable hazmat suit, face mask and face shield, neck and hair covering, double-gloved)
 - c. All checkpoint spaces will be thoroughly sanitized by COVID Team personnel

- d. Everyone in the Checkpoint Bubble will have immediate temperature taken, undergo healthy survey questions, and be tested via Rapid Antigen Test method
 - e. Everyone in the Checkpoint Bubble will be retested via Rapid Antigen Test in 2 days
8. Daily Health Survey Questionnaire and Temperature Check
- a. In Anchorage - In the event a participant reports feeling sick or has a temperature over 100.4
 - i. They will be connected with COVID Team personnel
 - ii. Asked to self-isolate or go home if residence is near Anchorage
 - iii. Must have (3) consecutive days of no symptoms or temperature
 - iv. Must re-test upon return (PCR Nasal Lab Test)

Section VI – Onboarding Information for all Iditarod Participants

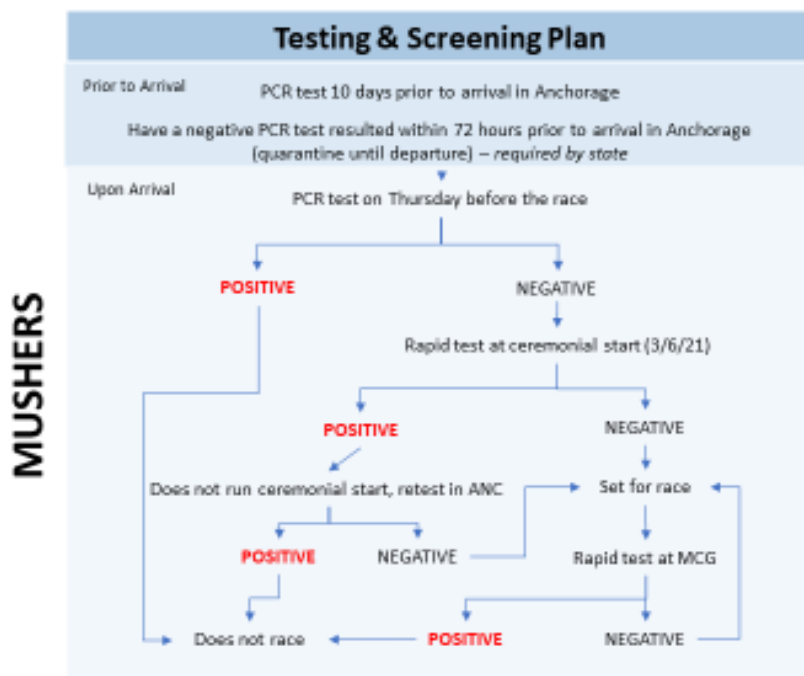
All must be received prior to travel to Anchorage or arrival at Lakefront.
Confirmation will be sent when all items are complete.

1. Emergency Contact (full name, relationship reference, cell phone, email address)
2. **Optional - contact of health care provider
3. Allergies (including food allergies and other noteworthy allergies that require special accommodations)
4. Documents that Require Signing
 - a. What is COVID19 Virus and Acknowledgement of Risks Notice
 - b. Iditarod Trail Rules
5. Negative test results from 10-14 days before arrival at the Lakefront Hotel
6. Negative test result taken and results received within 72 hours of travel to race
7. Signed Confirmation of Having Watched and/or Read Safety & Health Training Materials that include:
 - a. When and how to wear PPE gear
 - b. When and how to Wash and Sanitize Hands
 - c. When and how to Social Distance
 - d. When and how to sanitize tools, supplies, equipment and clothing
 - e. Daily Health Survey Questions
 - f. How to Self-Isolate @ Home
 - g. Best Health & Safety Practices while @ Home

Section VII – Detailed Prevention Plan by Participant Activity

Mushers Testing and Screening:

1. Required negative PCR Nasal Lab Test 10 days before race
2. Required negative PCR Nasal Lab Test Thursday before race
3. Rapid Antigen Test at ceremonial start on 3/6/21
 - a. Negative: set for race
 - b. Positive: does not do ceremonial start, retests at ceremonial start after all mushers depart
 - i. Negative: set for race
 - ii. Positive: does not race
4. Rapid Antigen Test at MCG
 - a. Negative: continues race
 - b. Positive: isolation/takes 24, retake Rapid Antigen Test in 24 hours
 - i. Negative: set for race
 - ii. Positive: does not race



Volunteers, IAF Pilots, Staff and Official Media:**Pre-Race Period - Before Arrival and Travel to Anchorage****1. 10-14 Days before arrival at the Lakefront Hotel at the start of the race:**

- a. Iditarod preparation begins before the race to keep participants and communities safe
- b. Participants should be social distancing, mask wearing, and hand washing regularly
- c. Required:
 - i. Negative PCR Nasal Lab Test 10-14 days before arrival at the Lakefront Hotel at the start of the race (test 1)
 - ii. Self-isolate as much as possible and follow Home Health & Safety Guidelines
 - iii. Participants submit health screener before travel
 - iv. Watch onboarding videos
 - v. Sign community contract (standards, zero tolerance)
- d. Strongly recommended:
 - i. Participants get a flu shot if they have not already had one

2. Within 72 Hours before Arrival at the Lakefront Hotel in Anchorage: All participants need to have a PCR Nasal Lab Test result and receive a negative result within 72 hours of travel to Anchorage/Lakefront Hotel (test 2). Participants, staff, mushers and official media should quarantine during this time.

3. Travel to Anchorage: All participants should travel wear their facemasks in airports and during flights. Protective eye gear (glasses, faceshield, sunglasses, safety glasses) is recommended on planes as well.

Arrival in Anchorage - Quarantine Begins, Movement to Checkpoint Bubble

1. Rapid Antigen Test (test 3) and PCR Nasal Lab Test (test 4) given outside of Lakefront Hotel in Iditarod Testing Tent
 - a. Negative Rapid Antigen Test: Participant is checked into Lakefront in solo room until results of PCR Nasal Lab Test results are available. This may be a period of 24 hours.
 - i. Alaskan Resident:
 1. Negative PCR Nasal Lab Test: Participant moved into Checkpoint Bubble room in Lakefront. Facemasks and social distancing are still required at all times.
 2. Positive PCR Nasal Lab Test: Continue isolation until can travel home
 - ii. Non-Alaskan Resident:
 1. Negative PCR Nasal Lab Test: After 5 days of strict social isolation (Governor's Orders), participant moved into

- Checkpoint Bubble room in Lakefront. Facemasks and social distancing are still required at all times.
- 2. Positive PCR Nasal Lab Test: Continue isolation until can travel home
- b. Positive Rapid Antigen Test: Participant is moved to quarantine section of Lakefront Hotel (not in Iditarod Bubble) for isolation until results of PCR Nasal Lab Test results are available. This may be a period of 24 hours.
 - i. Negative PCR Nasal Lab Test:
 - 1. Alaskan Resident: Participant moved into Checkpoint Bubble room in Lakefront. Facemasks and social distancing are still required at all times.
 - 2. Non-Alaskan Resident: After 5 days of strict social isolation (Governor's Orders), participant moved into Checkpoint Bubble room in Lakefront. Facemasks and social distancing are still required at all times.
 - ii. Positive PCR Nasal Lab Test: Continue isolation until can travel home
- 2. PCR Nasal Lab Test (test 5) given to all participants as leaving for trail if they have been at Lakefront for more than 48 hours

Testing at Checkpoint Bubble

- 1. Tests on trail: Rapid Antigen Test (test 6+)
 - a. Every 5 days on trail
 - b. Before moving to new checkpoint
 - c. If positive morning screening
 - d. If someone in "Checkpoint Bubble" tests positive
 - e. Pilots/logs/Mark/Jodie/Joe: tested every 2 days

Daily Health Screening

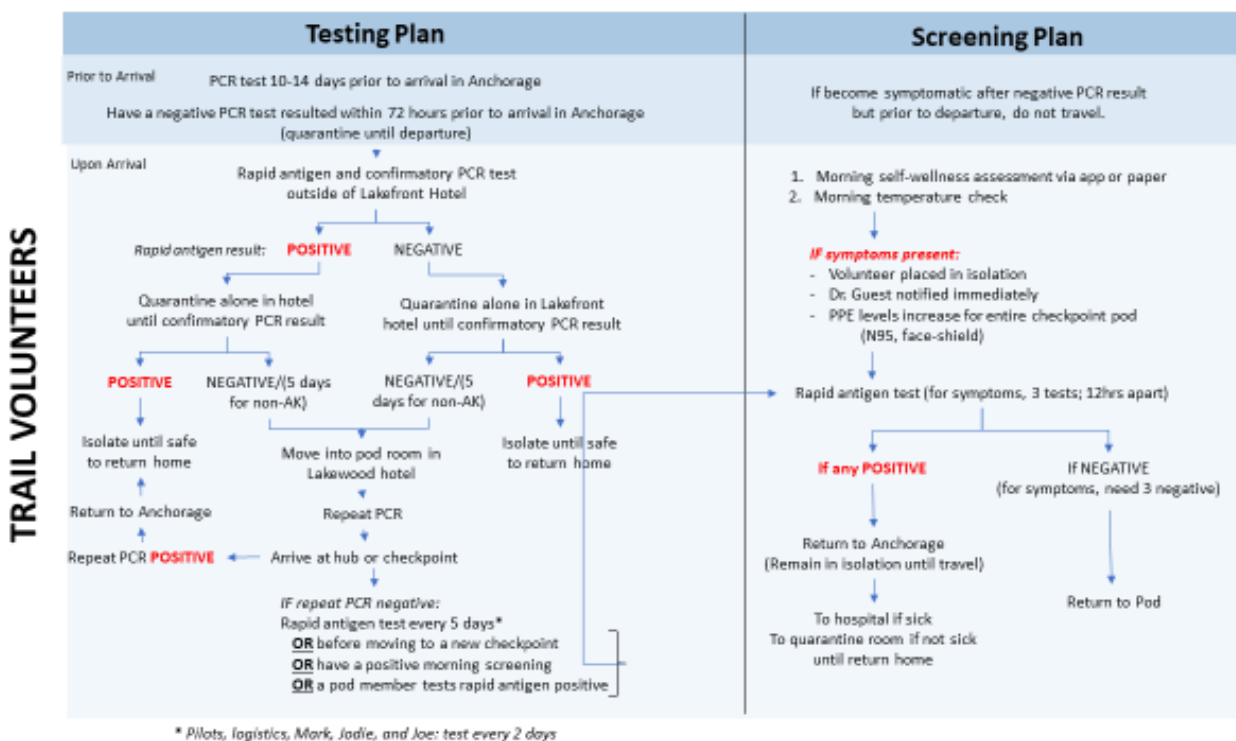
- 1. Begins at Lakefront and continues daily until off trail
- 2. Required morning self-wellness assessment via app or paper
- 3. Required morning temperature check recorded on spreadsheet
- 4. If symptoms present:
 - a. Participant placed in isolation
 - b. Dr. Guest notified immediately
 - c. PPE levels increase to Level Orange for entire checkpoint bubble (N95, Faceshield)
 - d. Rapid Antigen Test administered
 - i. Negative Rapid Antigen Test:
 - 1. Continue isolation
 - 2. Retest on Day 2 and 3
 - a. Negative: return to Checkpoint Bubble
 - b. Positive: return to ANC
 - ii. Positive Rapid Antigen Test:
 - 1. Continue isolation

2. Test all Checkpoint Bubble with Rapid Antigen Test
3. Report case to Health Department
4. Contact tracing
5. Transport to ANC
 - a. To hospital if sick
 - b. To isolation room if not sick

Sleeping and Eating at Checkpoint Bubble

1. Sleep/eat in pods
 - a. Logs/Pilots
 - b. Return dogs
 - c. Checkpoint: Communications/checkpoint vets/judge/trail/COVID tech

Testing and Screening Schematic for Volunteers, IAF Pilots, Staff and Official Media



IAF Pilots:

All testing/screening/surveillance as above plus the following

1. 3 KN95/N95 masks per IAF pilot
 - a. Pilot to wear KN95/N95 at all times in plane with passengers
 - b. Pilot to wear surgical mask over KN95/N95 mask
 - c. Pilot to rotate KN95/N95 every three days
2. Pilots to wear glasses (sunglasses or other protective glasses in plane)
3. Pilots do not provide headsets/mics to participants
4. All participants will be given several sets of earplugs to use in flight in their participant supply kit
5. After each passenger, plane seats, doors, handles, dash get cleaned with Clorox wipes
6. Consider flying passengers in back seat(s) and not front passenger seat

Entering Lakefront Hotel ANC LOGS room

1. Entrance to room will be limited to those with a “necessary need to enter” and will only include IAF pilots, logs team members and staff
2. Combined time for those visiting room should be 15 minutes or less a day
3. Windows should be kept open, if possible
4. IAF pilots coming to and from Lakefront at start of race will be given a rapid test every day before entering Lakefront Hotel
5. IAF pilots coming to and from Lakefront at start of race should minimize contacts outside of the Iditarod during this time

Race personnel staff/logistics who stay at Lakefront:

1. Negative PCR Nasal Lab Test 10-14 days before arrival at Lakefront Hotel (test 1) (not covered by Iditarod)
2. Negative PCR Nasal Lab Test taken and results received within 72 hours of arrival at Lakefront Hotel (test 2) (not covered by Iditarod)
3. Rapid Antigen Test outside of Lakefront Hotel in tent (test 3)
 - a. Negative: Participant is given PCR Nasal Lab Test (test 4) and checked into Lakefront in solo room until results of PCR Nasal Lab Test (plus 5 days of strict social distancing if not an Alaskan resident)
 - i. Negative: Participant moved into ANC Staff Bubble room in Lakefront
 - ii. Positive: Continue isolation until can travel home
 - b. Positive: Participant is given PCR Nasal Lab Test (test 4) and sent to Quarantine section of Lakefront Hotel (not in Iditarod Bubble) for isolation until results of PCR Nasal Lab Test
 - i. Negative: Moved into ANC Return Dog Bubble room in Lakefront (follow 5 days of strict social distancing if not an Alaskan resident)
 - ii. Positive: Continue isolation until can travel home
4. Rapid Antigen Test (test 5+)
 - a. Every 5 days
 - b. If positive morning health questionnaire
 - c. If someone in Lakefront Bubble is positive
5. Required morning self-wellness assessment and temperature via app
 - a. If symptoms present:
 - i. Participant placed in isolation
 - ii. Dr. Guest notified immediately
 - iii. PPE levels increase to Level Orange for entire Iditarod Lakefront Hotel Bubble (N95, Faceshield)
 - iv. PCR Nasal Lab Test given to entire Iditarod Lakefront Hotel Bubble
 - v. PCR Nasal Lab Test administered
 1. Positive
 - a. Continue isolation until can travel home
 - b. Report case to Health Department
 - c. Contact tracing
 - d. Transport to hospital if sick
 2. Negative: return to work
6. Eat/sleep with Iditarod Lakefront Hotel Bubble (all stay at Lakefront)
7. Social distance/mask with anyone outside of pod (airport personnel, handlers, prison personnel, inmates, vet hospital, etc.)
8. These necessary personal will have all testing/screening as standard participants and will stay in Iditarod Lakefront Hotel Bubble at the Lakefront Hotel.
9. They will have a counterpart who will not enter the Iditarod Lakefront Hotel Bubble who will run errands as needed and will bring supplies to Cheryl at the Lakefront Hotel with no contact or will take supplies as needed to airport for departure to checkpoints. This person will have no physical interaction with participants.

ANC/Lakefront Return Dogs vet/vet tech team:

1. Negative PCR Nasal Lab Test 10-14 days before arrival at Lakefront Hotel (test 1) (not covered by Iditarod)
2. Negative PCR Nasal Lab Test taken and results received within 72 hours of arrival at Lakefront Hotel (test 2) (not covered by Iditarod) (must have results back)
3. Rapid Antigen Test outside of Lakefront Hotel in tent (test 3)
 - a. Negative: Participant is given PCR Nasal Lab Test (test 4) and checked into Lakefront in solo room until results of PCR Nasal Lab Test
 - i. Negative: Participant moved into ANC Return Dog Bubble room in Lakefront (follow 5 days of strict social distancing if not an Alaskan resident)
 - ii. Positive: Continue isolation until can travel home
 - b. Positive: Participant is given PCR Nasal Lab Test (test 4) and sent to Quarantine section of Lakefront Hotel (not in Iditarod Bubble) for isolation until results of PCR Nasal Lab Test
 - i. Negative: Moved into ANC Return Dog Bubble room in Lakefront (follow 5 days of strict social distancing if not an Alaskan resident)
 - ii. Positive: Continue isolation until can travel home
4. Rapid Antigen Test (test 5+)
 - a. Every 5 days
 - b. If positive morning health questionnaire
 - c. If someone in Lakefront Bubble tests positive
5. Required morning self-wellness assessment and temperature via app
 - a. If symptoms present:
 - i. Participant placed in isolation
 - ii. Dr. Guest notified immediately
 - iii. PPE levels increase to Level Orange for entire Iditarod Lakefront Hotel Bubble (N95, Faceshield)
 - iv. PCR Nasal Lab Test given to entire Iditarod Lakefront Hotel Bubble
 - v. PCR Nasal Lab Test administered
 1. Positive
 - a. Continue isolation until can travel home
 - b. Report case to Health Department
 - c. Contact tracing
 - d. Transport to hospital if sick
 - vi. Negative: return to work
6. Eat/sleep with Iditarod Lakefront Hotel Bubble (all stay at Lakefront)
7. Social distance/mask with anyone outside of pod (airport personnel, handlers, prison personnel, inmates, vet hospital, etc.)

Logs and Commercial Flights in ANC (stay at Lakefront, combined is referred to as ANC Logs):

This room and team will be in a quasi-bubble due to the need to have pilots come in and out of the room during the beginning of the race. Routine surveillance testing will be more frequent due to this flow. Additionally, time in these rooms for those not working Logs will be time-limited.

1. Negative PCR Nasal Lab Test 10-14 days before arrival at Lakefront Hotel (test 1) (not covered by Iditarod)
2. Negative PCR Nasal Lab Test taken and results received within 72 of arrival at Lakefront Hotel (test 2) (not covered by Iditarod)
3. Rapid Antigen Test outside of Lakefront Hotel in tent (test 3)
 - a. Positive: Participant is given PCR Nasal Lab Test (test 4) and sent to Quarantine section of Lakefront Hotel (not in Iditarod Bubble) for isolation until results of PCR Nasal Lab Test (5 days of strict social distancing for non-Alaskan resident)
 - i. Negative: Participant moved into Logs Bubble room in Lakefront
 - ii. Positive: Continue isolation until can travel home
 - b. Negative: Participant is given PCR Nasal Lab Test (test 4) and checked into Lakefront in solo room until results of PCR Nasal Lab Test
 - i. Negative: Participant moved into Logs Bubble room in Lakefront (5 days of strict social distancing for non-Alaskan resident)
 - ii. Positive: Continue isolation until can travel home
4. Rapid Antigen Test (test 5+)
 - a. Every 3 days
 - b. If positive morning screening
 - c. If someone in bubble has symptoms or test positive on screening
5. Required morning self-wellness assessment and temperature via app
 - a. If symptoms present:
 - i. Participant placed in isolation
 - ii. Dr. Guest notified immediately
 - iii. PPE levels increase to Level Orange for entire ANC Logs Bubble (N95, Faceshield)
 - iv. PCR Nasal Lab Test administered
 1. Negative: return to work
 2. Positive
 - a. Continue isolation until can travel home
 - b. Report case to Health Department
 - c. Contact tracing
 - d. Transport to hospital if sick
6. Eat/sleep with ANC Logs Bubble (all stay at Lakefront)
7. Social distance/mask with anyone outside of ANC Logs Bubble

Prevention strategies for the ANC Logs and Commercial Rooms at Lakefront:

1. Entrance to room will be limited to those with a “necessary need to enter” and will only include IAF pilots, logs team members and staff
2. Combined time for those visiting room should be 15 minutes or less a day
3. Windows should be kept open, if possible
4. Strategies for touchless paperwork should be used
5. IAF pilots coming to and from Lakefront at start of race will be given a rapid test every day before entering Lakefront Hotel
6. IAF pilots coming to and from Lakefront at start of race should minimize contacts outside of the Iditarod during this time

Pre-race vet techs:

1. Facemask/faceshield in exam truck
2. Only vet techs in exam truck
3. Handler/musher pass dogs to vet techs at door

Race communications participants (typically at Lakefront):

1. Take calls from home/zoom
2. No admittance at lakefront

Section VII – Checkpoint Information

Checkpoint Rules:

1. Facemasks required at all times
2. Mushers wear facemask when interacting with vets, vet techs or other checkpoint personnel
3. Other PPE Gear worn as directed by COVID Team personnel
4. Must observe all health and safety protocols
5. No reentry of Checkpoint Bubble
6. Everyone helps clean
7. No tolerance for not following COVID19 safety rules

Checkpoint Cleaning Plan and PPE:

1. Daily housekeeping of common surfaces
 - a. 2-Hour Rotation
 - b. COVID Team personnel oversees cleaning
2. Equipment, Supplies and Materials Sanitizing
 - a. Required for all common surfaces
 - b. All packaging of equipment, material and supplies must be sanitized
 - c. All equipment, material and supplies delivered without packaging must be sanitized
3. “Safety Kit” provided to all in “Checkpoint Bubble”:
 - a. (2) Reusable KN95 Face Masks
 - b. Disposable Face Masks
 - c. Reusable Face Shields
 - d. **Disposable Medical Hazmat Suits (only to be used per instruction from COVID Team personnel)
 - e. Disposable Nitrile Gloves (only to be used per instruction from COVID Team personnel)
 - f. Hand Sanitizer
 - g. Sanitizing Wipes for Surfaces
4. Required personal protective gear, i.e. face mask – required at all times
5. Cleaning supplies provided for checkpoint

Communities and the Checkpoints:

Each community will work with the Iditarod Race Marshal to agree on arrangements for interaction between the Checkpoint, volunteers and mushers, and the community.

Possible scenarios for community engagement and level of COVID19 risk:**No contact/no risk**

1. Closed checkpoint to all community members
2. Provide lodging (community centers, city and tribal buildings, private businesses, schools, etc.) for volunteers and mushers
3. All indoor buildings and spaces used by the Iditarod are cleaned before departure and community does not enter these buildings for 3 days after Iditarod departure
4. Transportation of all checkpoint supplies (i.e., straw, trash, HEET, drop bags, checkpoint heating fuel, replenish water as needed, etc.)
5. Provide fuel for generators and trail breaker snow machines, Insider crews, sweeps
6. Provide local Search & Rescue
7. Spectators outside

Community engagement/minimal or no risk

1. Provide maintenance shops for repair of snow machines and equipment (e.g., trail breakers, trail sweeps, IAF, etc.)
2. Act as checkers and park dog teams
3. Prepare and drop off meals for the Iditarod volunteers/mushers
4. Maintenance to provided lodging during the event
5. Volunteer transportation from airport to checkpoint (volunteers in back of truck/snow machine, everyone masked)
6. Transportation of returned dogs with vets to airport (volunteers in back of truck, everyone masked)
7. Assist volunteers in setting up communications and trouble shoot problems (everyone masked)
8. Volunteers use community stores to supplement race supplies (always masked)
9. Volunteers eating at local restaurants with only Iditarod volunteers
10. Volunteers get take out from local restaurants and eat at checkpoint

Community engagement/moderate risk

1. Volunteer transportation from airport to checkpoint (volunteers in truck, community member not masked)
2. Transportation of returned dogs with vets to airport (volunteers in truck, community member not masked)
3. Volunteers are provided local health services
4. Volunteers use community “washeterias” for showers
5. Community involvement when special awards are given out (e.g. Lakefront’s First Team to the Yukon dinner)

Community engagement/high risk events not acceptable on the race trail in 2021

1. Community members in/out of the checkpoint frequently
2. Community engagement with Iditarod volunteers unmasked
3. Community entertaining volunteers in their homes
4. Community providing housing for trail breakers outside of the checkpoint in resident homes
5. Volunteers attending public community events including funerals
6. Volunteers eating inside local restaurants with community members
7. Volunteers attending community craft and fundraising fairs
8. Vets visits to schools to provide talks about animal care

Iditarod COVID Levels Defined

Level Green

- No COVID cases
- No symptomatic personnel
- COVID Bubble intact
- Standards
 - Facemask at all times
 - Social distancing
 - No exit/entrance of Bubble
 - Routine cleaning

Level Orange

- Possible reasons to move to Level Orange
 - Symptomatic personnel
 - Positive Rapid Antigen Test on trail
 - Positive COVID19 case in community
- Standards
 - Facemask at all times
 - Faceshield
 - Isolation of symptomatic personnel
 - Retesting of symptomatic personnel or routine test that is positive
 - Testing of all personnel in Bubble
 - Social distancing
 - No exit/entrance of Bubble
 - Immediate additional cleaning

Level Red

- Possible reasons to move to Level Red
 - Symptomatic personnel who tested positive on 2 Rapid Antigen Tests
 - Two or more personnel with positive Rapid Antigen Test
- Standards
 - Facemask at all times
 - Faceshield
 - Isolation of symptomatic personnel
 - Testing of all personnel in Bubble
 - Social distancing
 - No exit/entrance of Bubble
 - Immediate additional cleaning
 - Removal of checkpoint team

Section IX – APPENDIX

COVID19 Test Specifications

- PCR Tests
- Rapid Antigen Tests

Modeling Expected Number of False Positive Results and Probability of False Negative Based on Iditarod Bubble Size using Abbott's BinaxNOW COVID19 Ag Card

COVID19 Test Specifications:

All testing will be administered by trained staff wearing full PPE (facemask, faceshield, disposable gown, gloves; gloves changed for each person)

PCR Lab testing

- Anterior nares swab (Sensitivity 98%, specificity 100% unless swab is contaminated)
- Highest chance of false negative is if test is done too soon
- Samples run by Anchorage DPH, results in 48 hours
- Would like to use lab with 24 hour results

Rapid Antigen Testing

There are currently five antigen tests approved for NP swabs. None are officially approved for asymptomatic screening but are being used for population screening purposes at US universities.

CareStart's COVID-19 antigen test is lateral flow, visual read but requires NP swabs. Quidel SOFIA2's test is for influenza a/b and COVID, but is instrument read and must be stored at room temperature.

Abbott's BinaxNOW COVID-19 Ag Card

- Results in 15 minutes
- Does not require machine, electricity, or equipment beyond card and reagents
- Lateral flow; visual read test
- Anterior nares swab (Sensitivity = 97.1%, Specificity = 98.5%)
- Cross reactivity with SARS-CoV
- Mupirocin (nasal antibiotic) may cause false negative
- Each package of 40 tests provides 1 positive swab for quality control
- Store kit at 2-20C (35 to 68F), everything should be at "room temp" upon use
- <https://www.fda.gov/media/141570/download>

For negative results:

1. Individual is allowed to continue to work/race, and must continue to follow health and safety guidelines, including wearing a facemask and socially distancing at all times unless eating or sleeping with their pod
2. The likelihood of having any false negatives, even with a large (400 people) population and averaging 4 Rapid Antigen Tests per individual, is under 5%

Note: current best window for testing during infectious has not been determined. Currently, we do not know how soon in infection these tests can detect COVID. If someone is infected a few days before being tested, they may test negative and become infectious before the next test. These data are constantly being updated.

For positive results:

1. Individual is immediately notified of results
2. Individual is immediately quarantined, and safety precautions for all contacts are increased to Level Orange
3. Rapid Antigen Test is repeated to rule out false positive (could do a field PCR test and send to ANC)
4. If 2 people within a pod test positive, safety precautions are increased to Level Red
5. Rapid Antigen Tests are given to all contacts 2 days and 4 days after first date of contact with case
6. If possible, nasal swab is taken to be sent to ANC for PCR confirmation

Modeling Expected Number of False Positive Results and Probability of False Negative Based on Iditarod Bubble Size using Abbott’s BinaxNOW COVID19 Ag Card

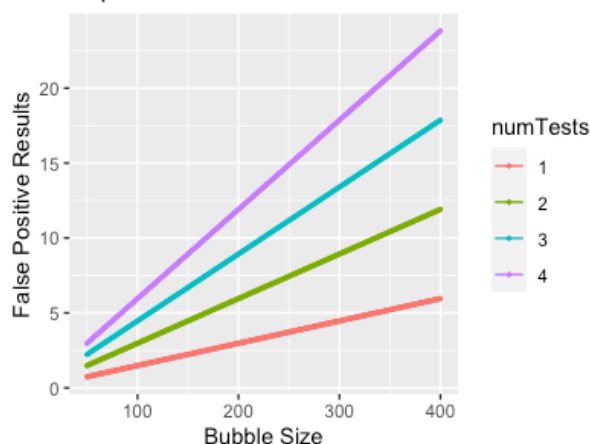
Sensitivity = 97.1%, Specificity = 98.5% within the first 7 days among patients with suspected COVID19 in a sample of 100 patients [Only false negative had a CT>33 (infectiousness unlikely with CT>33)]

Projected COVID19 prevalence in the US in February is 749.8 per 100k people at any given time (243,435 new infections per day in the United States * around 10 days of positivity per case, according to IHME)

	COVID+	COVID-	
Test +	728.1	1488.8	2216.9
Test -	21.7	97761.7	97783.4
	749.8	99250.5	100,000

- Projected COVID prevalence in Alaska in February is 736.3 per 100k (538.63 new infections per day out of 731545 population * 10 days of illness per person); which is similar to US projected prevalence
- PPV and NPV are calculated based on US and Alaska-specific influenza-like surveillance numbers for pre-test probability of infection with COVID. These can be re-calculated closer to departure for individuals with symptoms.
 - PPV = 32.8%
 - NPV = 99.97%

Expected Number of False Positives



Probability of a False Negative

