



Date: January 26, 2021

Dear media member,

Thank you for being a past member of the credentialed media to cover the Iditarod. We always look forward to seeing you and working with you throughout the race.

As you are aware, this year's race is going to look very different on and off the trail. The Iditarod continues to take this pandemic very seriously and has added additional precautions to help protect and preserve the tradition of dog mushing and the rich culture of the communities along the trail – just like the main mission of why this race is held. Read the Iditarod's comprehensive COVID-19 mitigation plan [here](#).

One of the changes due to the race's stringent COVID-19 safety protocols (developed in cooperation with the Alaska Department of Health & Social Services) is why we are reaching out to you today. **For 2021, the Iditarod will not be credentialing any members of the media for access to race-controlled and permitted areas.**

Part of the mitigation plan is implementing "bubbles" to prevent the potential exposure to coronavirus (similar to what has been done in the NBA, NFL and others). To this end, the Iditarod is strongly encouraging members of the media not to travel along the race trail out of the utmost caution. This applies to the ceremonial start, restart, checkpoints along the trail, and finish, etc. No members of the media will be allowed to access Iditarod-controlled areas in checkpoints. **You may still attend and travel as a member of the public, but you will not be granted access to areas under permit by Iditarod. This mandate is meant to protect the communities, the mushers, veterinarians, pilots, race judges, and communications personnel on the trail.**

Understanding that you may be frustrated with this change due to COVID-19 mitigation for the 2021 race, there will be opportunities to access a press pool for editorial coverage on radio, TV and print media outlets. We will be in touch at a later date with an update on how to access these assets throughout the race.

Additionally, we will be holding a pre-race media briefing to provide media availability with race officials leading up to the race and to answer any additional questions that media have regarding the route, rule updates, etc. The date and time will be confirmed soon.

Thank you again for sharing your stories of the Iditarod, the Last Great Race on Earth, with the rest of the world. If you have any questions, please contact Bri Kelly with Thompson & Co. PR at bri@thompsonpr.com.