

Dear AVA Club Presidents and Officers,

The AVA Board of Directors unanimously agreed today to immediately suspend all AVA Traditional events through April 30th, 2020 and recommends all club related events to include group walks, meetings, social gatherings, etc. be postponed through April 30th, 2020.

The Board of Directors will be monitoring this situation closely and updates will be given regularly as the situation develops.

The Board further recommends clubs listen and follow directions of State, Local and Federal authorities on local circumstances surrounding the COVID-19 virus.

See attachment for additional Guidelines or visit [coronavirus.gov](https://www.coronavirus.gov) for more information.

During this suspension period we recommend clubs postpone and not cancel events so they can be reactivated in the ESR at a later date should the club decide to reschedule them. For more information on how to do this see the attachment or contact your Regional Director. There will be no additional sanctioning fees for events rescheduled as a result of this suspension so long as they are rescheduled during the 2020 calendar year. The AVA is still discussing what action to take in the case where an event cannot be rescheduled.

More information will be forthcoming as we begin to realize the impact this may have on our clubs and the AVA.

In the meantime, the Board encourages everyone to keep exercising at home by participating in the Appalachian Trail virtual online program!

As an added incentive for a limited time, you can join for only \$25.00 and start counting your steps today! (T-shirt not included.)

This was not an easy decision for your Board. However, it is important that we take action to help slow the spread of COVID-19. Your club members are the most valuable part of AVA: America's Walking Club, and it is critical that we do what we can to keep everyone healthy.

Stay Safe So You Can Keep Walking.

Happy trails,

David Bonewitz, PhD

President

AVA: America's Walking Club

1.
On your ESR
Club
Homepage



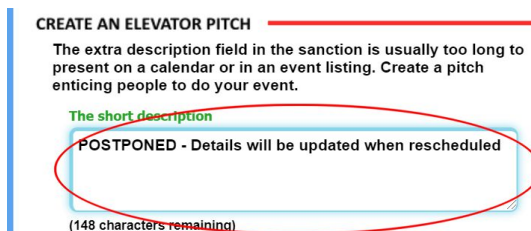
2.



3.
Event
to
update



4. Suggested text for traditional
event



Possible YRE text:

TEMPORARILY Suspended due to COVID-19 closures
till further notice.

*Text entered in item 4 above will appear in the enhanced event
search results on AVA website.*

15 DAYS TO SLOW THE SPREAD

Listen to and follow the directions of your **STATE AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES**.

IF YOU FEEL SICK, stay home. Do not go to work. Contact your medical provider.

IF YOUR CHILDREN ARE SICK, keep them at home. Do not send them to school. Contact your medical provider.

IF SOMEONE IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD HAS TESTED POSITIVE for the coronavirus, keep the entire household at home. Do not go to work. Do not go to school. Contact your medical provider.

IF YOU ARE AN OLDER PERSON, stay home and away from other people.

IF YOU ARE A PERSON WITH A SERIOUS UNDERLYING HEALTH CONDITION that can put you at increased risk (for example, a condition that impairs your lung or heart function or weakens your immune system), stay home and away from other people.



For more information, please visit
CORONAVIRUS.GOV

DO YOUR PART TO SLOW THE SPREAD OF THE CORONAVIRUS

Even if you are young, or otherwise healthy, you are at risk and your activities can increase the risk for others. It is critical that you do your part to slow the spread of the coronavirus.

Work or engage in schooling **FROM HOME** whenever possible.

IF YOU WORK IN A CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE INDUSTRY, as defined by the Department of Homeland Security, such as healthcare services and pharmaceutical and food supply, you have a special responsibility to maintain your normal work schedule. You and your employers should follow CDC guidance to protect your health at work.

AVOID SOCIAL GATHERINGS in groups of more than 10 people.

Avoid eating or drinking at bars, restaurants, and food courts — **USE DRIVE-THRU, PICKUP, OR DELIVERY OPTIONS.**

AVOID DISCRETIONARY TRAVEL, shopping trips, and social visits.

DO NOT VISIT nursing homes or retirement or long-term care facilities unless to provide critical assistance.

PRACTICE GOOD HYGIENE:

- *Wash your hands, especially after touching any frequently used item or surface.*
- *Avoid touching your face.*
- *Sneeze or cough into a tissue, or the inside of your elbow.*
- *Disinfect frequently used items and surfaces as much as possible.*

CORONAVIRUS.GOV

School operations can accelerate the spread of the coronavirus. Governors of states with evidence of community transmission should close schools in affected and surrounding areas. Governors should close schools in communities that are near areas of community transmission, even if those areas are in neighboring states. In addition, state and local officials should close schools where coronavirus has been identified in the population associated with the school. States and localities that close schools need to address childcare needs of critical responders, as well as the nutritional needs of children.

Older people are particularly at risk from the coronavirus. All states should follow Federal guidance and halt social visits to nursing homes and retirement and long-term care facilities.

In states with evidence of community transmission, bars, restaurants, food courts, gyms, and other indoor and outdoor venues where groups of people congregate should be closed.