



Safe Practice Recommendations for AVA Events



Clubs should listen to and follow the directions of State, Local and Federal authorities on local circumstances surrounding rules and guidelines for returning to normal as we continue to battle the COVID-19 virus. We expect that social distancing, wearing of masks and gloves, and limitations on the size of gatherings will continue on a regional, state, and local level. Regional Directors will be asking clubs if they are following those guidelines as they look to approve sanction requests.

-David Bonewitz, AVA President

The AVA has put together the following as a set of safe practice recommendations for clubs hosting walking events:

- The club or state organization hosting an event should continue to implement social distancing (6 ft apart) and health safety practices consistent with state / county / local guidelines in your area and where the walks will take place
- Advise members who feel sick or display flu-like symptoms NOT to attend events
- Organizers should coordinate the start/finish points ahead of time
- Have a plan in place if more than the limit of participants (based on restrictions of your area) show up to walk
 - A suggestion could be to establish a RSVP process and a maximum attendance limit for the event or for each group
- Modify registration procedures; suggestions for this:
 - Volunteer workers wear masks/gloves (at start point & checkpoint)
 - Limit the number of volunteers in one area to two people
 - Spacing participants in lines as they wait to register
 - Having one or two volunteers dedicated to directing social distancing
 - Participants bring their own pens
 - Sanitizing all surfaces (rubbing alcohol 70%-90% could be used for this if there are no other sanitizers available for purchase)
- Have participants wear face masks and/or gloves (at checkpoints & finish area)
 - If possible, have a supply of gloves on-site and/or encourage participants to bring their own
- Stagger participants at the start point
- Have participants practice social distancing on their walk as much as possible
- If possible, provide hand sanitizer (at start point & checkpoint) and/or make participants aware of restrooms for hand washing near the walk
- Let participants know ahead of time how safety practices will be handled for each walk
 - Suggestions for this can be to include information on how you will operate regarding COVID-19 into your event brochure
 - Use your club newsletters, website, e-mail blasts and/or social media to reinforce expectations for your volunteers and your participants.
- If possible, have individual bottles of water available for participants and/or advise participants to bring their own water bottles
- Advise the participants to bring exact change as another way to minimize contact