

2021 Grand Illinois Bike Tour (GIBT) - COVID-19 Protocols

April 15, 2021

The COVID-19 pandemic forced the postponement of our 2020 GIBT tour to June 13-18, 2021. To comply with government restrictions, and to even further mitigate COVID-19 risks, Ride Illinois has adjusted various aspects of our GIBT tour - see below.

Let's work together for a fun and safe tour, which all of us welcome after the past year. We urge your cooperation with these protocols, which apply to all participants: riders, staff, and volunteers. *Any person that does not follow our COVID-19 protocols puts others at risk as well as the event as a whole. Any violation puts you at risk of being removed from the tour (and the participant will not be eligible for a refund).*

All participants will need to e-sign a statement that they acknowledge and understand these protocols and will follow them. Also required will be e-signing of a modified version of the registration waiver, adding communicable diseases to the list of risks.

General:

To participate in GIBT, it is strongly recommended and requested that all riders be either fully vaccinated for COVID-19 or have a negative COVID-19 test result within three days of the start of the event. *(From a sampling of riders who have discussed COVID-19 with us, all are already fully vaccinated or will be, before GIBT.)* All staff and volunteers will be fully vaccinated. Participants must not come to the event if they have COVID-19 symptoms or are in quarantine.

Masks - properly worn, covering both mouth and nose - and 6' social distancing are mandatory during these activities organized by GIBT:

- Check-in (drive thru) and luggage drop-off on Sunday morning
- All rest stops and water stops
- Riding in SAG vehicles
- Each day, retrieving luggage from storage room, and dropping off luggage by truck
- Picking up your boxed dinners
- Social distancing is required at outdoor music singalongs and Velosophie. Masks are required whenever feasible during these times.

During other rider free time spent with people "outside of their bubble", masks and social distancing are strongly recommended.

All participants should wash or sanitize their hands frequently. Hand sanitizer and additional masks will be available at the GIBT-organized activities listed above.

During packet pickup and ride start at Litchfield High School:

- We will use a drive-thru procedure for pickup of your map/cue sheet packet, pre-printed “fanny flag”, and t-shirt. There will be signs and/or volunteers to guide your way.
- Riders driving to the high school should drive north on State, pull into the school's front drive and stop halfway through it. There, volunteers will be stationed on the sidewalk to the right of the car. Tables will be set up with packet envelopes and t-shirt boxes.
- Riders should roll down their passenger side window to identify themselves to the next available volunteer, then pull forward as far as possible to park temporarily.
- That volunteer will first get that rider's (sealed) envelope. The envelope will have maps, cue sheets, “fanny flag” (identifying tag to be attached to the back of your bike) and tie-wraps inside, with the rider's name and t-shirt size labeled on the outside. The volunteer will then get the appropriate t-shirt and drop the packet and t-shirt into the rider's car's passenger seat, or hand these to the passenger.
- The rider should then go south on State, west on Scherer, north on Madison – where the parking lot volunteer will direct them where to park, either south or north of the football field.
- After parking, the rider should drop off their luggage next to the truck, telling luggage volunteer #1 their name. That volunteer, who will have a list matching name with luggage tag color coding, will tell luggage volunteer #2 the appropriate tag color to put on that luggage. Depending on the color, volunteer #2 will either load that luggage into the truck, or put it to the side for loading later.
- Luggage volunteer #1 will also give the rider instructions on: the location of the restroom inside the wrestling gym; the location of the “help desk” and water station outside the wrestling gym; and the direction to start bicycling when ready.
- Our volunteers will wear gloves and turn on the spigot for water. Riders should hold their water bottles below the spigots, without making contact. Volunteers will clean the spigot, if accidental contact is made.

At rest stops and water stops:

- As mentioned above, masks and 6' social distancing are required, as are participants using hand sanitizer before and after touching anything.
- Only single serve wrapped food items, and fruit that can be peeled (bananas and oranges) will be provided.
- Our volunteers will wear gloves and turn on the spigot for any beverages that are not bottled, such as water or Gatorade. Riders should hold their water bottles below the spigots, without making contact. Volunteers will clean the spigot, if accidental contact is made.
- At rest/water stops and elsewhere, if individual water or other beverage bottles are made available in a cooler, the ice cannot be consumed.
- Portalets will have hand sanitizer. Staff/volunteers will clean door handles periodically.

In SAG support vehicles:

- SAG drivers must be fully vaccinated.
- Everyone in the vehicle must wear a mask.
- Vehicles cannot operate at full capacity. The back middle seat will be left empty.
- When possible, keep windows open to increase ventilation.
- SAGs will be provided with hand sanitizer, masks, and gloves.
- Door handles will be wiped with sanitizer after participants exit vehicles.
- A list of all SAG riders will be kept, for each SAG trip.

At catered meals:

- As mentioned above, masks and 6' social distancing are required, as are participants using hand sanitizer before touching items that others "outside your bubble" may touch.
- Boxed, catered meals will be provided. These will be distributed on folding tables, along with single-use, wrapped utensils. Distribution will be outside as a default, as long as weather permits. Distribution scheduling by last name range will, most likely, be done to limit crowding (this will be detailed in the forthcoming Rider Info Letter).
- Our volunteers or caterers will wear gloves and turn on the spigot for any beverages that are not bottled. Riders should hold their cups below the spigots, without making contact. Volunteers will clean the spigot, if accidental contact is made.
- If individual water or other beverage bottles are made available in a cooler, the ice cannot be consumed.
- Participants may choose where to eat where they feel comfortable, whether sitting on the ground or their own bag chair outside, somewhere inside, in their rooms, etc. However, to promote social distancing, indoor or outdoor table seating will not be provided.

Hotel issues:

- Luggage transport staff will place riders' luggage in a designated room inside our hotels. Individuals should wear a mask and socially distance when retrieving their luggage.
- While we will continue to ask for early check-ins at our hotels, for many, their rooms will not be available immediately when they arrive. To reduce crowds waiting inside the hotels for their rooms, plan your day accordingly, wait outside, and/or use masks and socially distance if waiting inside.
- All double occupancy hotelers being matched with another rider not already within their "COVID bubble" must be fully vaccinated.
- We've asked our hotels to share their own COVID protocols:
 - Primary (original) hotel package: [Best Western](#) (Lebanon), [Towne Place and Holiday Inn Express](#) (Edwardsville), and [Hampton Inn](#) and [Best Western](#) (Alton)
 - Secondary (mostly, our campers) package: [LaQuinta Inn](#) (O'Fallon), Country Hearth Inn and [Holiday Inn Express](#) (Edwardsville), [Best Western](#) and [Super 8](#) (Alton)

End of ride:

- For those who are comfortable with the COVID-19 risks of doing so, showers will be available in Litchfield High School's locker rooms, after riders finish their Friday ride. Wear masks for as much of your time inside the school as is possible.

Sick rider procedure:

- If an unimmunized participant gets sick with any symptoms of COVID-19, they should immediately isolate themselves in their hotel room and inform Ride Illinois staff.
- Ride Illinois will then notify tour participants (riders, staff, volunteers) and ask those who have had close contact with that person to stay away from others until the individual's test results come back.
- If needed, Ride Illinois will provide that individual with information on the nearest medical facility with COVID-19 testing and treatment capabilities - and alert the medical facility personnel that a potential case of COVID-19 will be arriving so they can be prepared.
- The individual may return to the tour if their test results come back negative, but they will have to remain in isolation and may have to purchase another hotel room night(s) while waiting for results.
- If the individual tests positive for COVID-19, they must isolate in their hotel room until they have a family member or friend who can get them home. Or, they may be required to quarantine in the area for the duration of their illness.
- Ride Illinois will notify local health officials of any confirmed case of COVID.
- Ride Illinois will again notify tour participants (riders, staff, volunteers) and advise those unvaccinated riders who have had close contact with the person diagnosed with COVID that they will need to isolate themselves and get tested, as described above for the symptomatic individual.