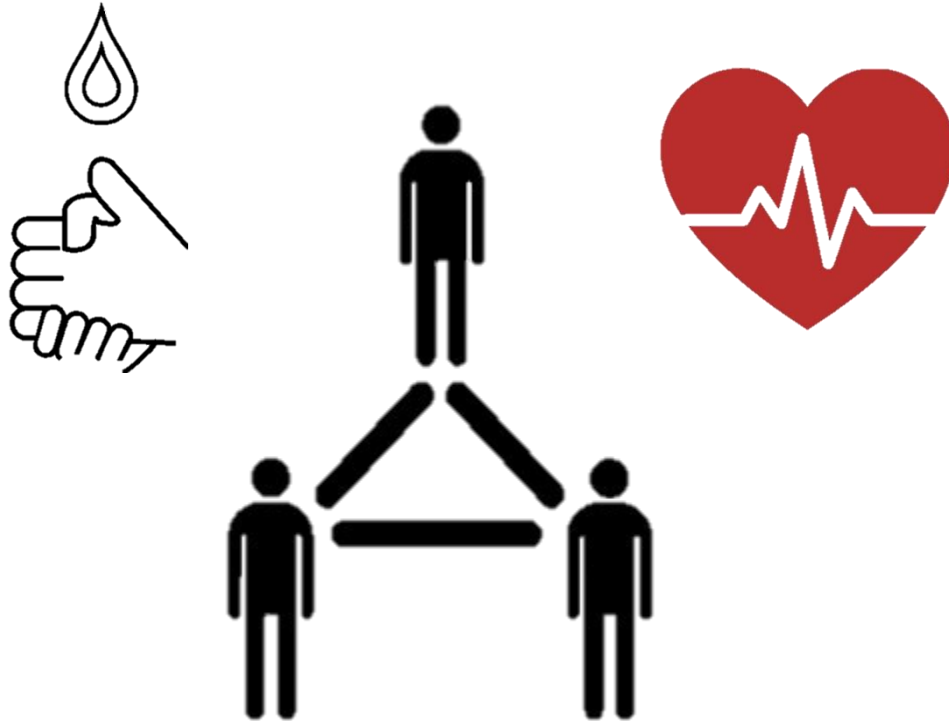


# Sanders County Fair & Rodeo Infectious Disease Plan



August 2021

## **Purpose**

The purpose of this Infectious Disease Plan is to provide a guideline to protect community health so that participants and visitors have a positive experience at the Sanders County Fair. This plan and any supplemental plans or addendums have been developed in coordination with the Sanders County Board of Health and community stakeholders. Inherent to the guideline nature of this document, incomplete adherence does not constitute a breach of duty by the Sanders County Fair Commission, Sanders County Board of Health, or Sanders County.

## **Philosophy of the Sanders County Fair Commission**

There is no guarantee of an illness-free event despite extensive planning. Event-goers must consider the inherent risks of participating in any gathering that may expose them to any infectious disease. While the goal of the Sanders County Fair Commission is to produce an event that reasonably healthy individuals of all ages and health conditions may enjoy, people who are at high risk of severe illness (for example, those over the age of 65 or those with underlying medical conditions) are discouraged from participating in the event. It is ultimately the responsibility of each individual to determine if their health condition and underlying vulnerability to disease precludes attendance. The Commission will work reasonably to provide necessary facilities and put in place prudent practices to promote and protect individual and public health.

In order to protect the health of all members and participants, all employees, contract personnel, vendors, and volunteers must follow these guidelines regardless of their personal feelings about the current situation or their concern about their own personal safety. These measures serve to protect all attendees, participants, and the public at large and to ensure that the event can continue.

## **Responsibility and Accountability**

Achieving the goal of reducing transmission of infectious diseases is the responsibility of event organizers and individuals alike. The Sanders County Fair Commission, as an event organizer and sponsor, has an obligation to provide resources and facilities that allow individuals to practice good hygiene and other social protections. Individuals have an obligation to utilize facilities provided and other protective measures to prevent transmission of disease. Success in reducing disease transmission will require event organizers to provide adequate facilities and individuals to take personal responsibility.

In addition, planners, health officials, and event-goers must understand the parameters within which events at the Sanders County Fairgrounds operate. The vast majority of events occur outdoors, in open air (often with some amount of wind or air movement) and with considerable opportunity for social distancing. This setting is vastly different than indoor events held in confined spaces with little air movement and less opportunity for social distancing. These conditions should be considered in decision-making processes.

## **Designation of a Health Officer**

The Fair Commission will designate an employee or officer as the Health Officer to act as lead point of contact for all infectious disease concerns. The Health Officer will follow a defined and established protocol for notification of appropriate community health officials regarding infectious disease transmission and concerns. All staff will be informed of who this person is and how to contact them.

## Measures to Protect Public Health

Measures to protect public health and safety include hand washing and sanitizing stations, reduction of unnecessary interaction between vendors and customers, public outreach and signage, and procedures targeted to specific user groups and event participants.

Public Outreach: Public outreach messages prior to events and at entry to the events will instruct visitors to stay home if they feel sick or they have been exposed to an infectious disease, to plan for good hygiene, and use social distancing while they attend the event. Messages will also stress the need for visitors to cooperate by taking personal responsibility during the event to reduce the threat of disease transmission.

Signage: The Fair Commission will produce and erect signage at entrances and throughout the grounds and parking areas, to include:

- Health Screenings - signage that makes clear ill or symptomatic individuals (as defined by CDC guidelines) should not attend the event will be placed at all entrances to the event. Individuals who are at higher risk of severe illness (as defined by CDC) are discouraged from attending without first consulting their medical provider.
- Individual choice - signage that reminds all participants and attendants that participation in this event is strictly voluntary and that individuals do so at their own risk.
- Social Distancing - signage that reminds event participants to engage in social distancing. Signage at plumbed restrooms will ask visitors waiting to use the facilities to wait outside and to practice social distancing while waiting.
- Indoor space occupancy - signage that has a posted maximum capacity occupancy limit from which to calculate reduced occupancy standards, if needed, will help to ensure adequate space for social distancing.
- Hand-washing/Sanitizing - signage throughout the facility will encourage attendees to practice proper and frequent hand-washing/sanitizing. Hand washing and sanitizing stations will be well-marked and directional signs erected as needed so that they are easily found by event participants throughout the grounds.
- Masking - signage that encourages appropriate individuals (per CDC guidelines) to wear facemasks if appropriate will be posted at the entrance to the event.
- Minimal touch - signage that discourages frequent or thorough touching of items that are for sale or commonly used (ie credit card machine).
- No contact with animals - signage will be displayed throughout the animal stalls at the event that will prohibit person-to-animal contact by the general public.
- Infectious Disease Officer (IDO) - information on who the IDO is and how to contact them will be included on all signage.

Hand Washing/Sanitizing Stations: The Fair Commission will secure portable hand washing stations and sanitizing stations and disperse them throughout activity areas during events. Along with plumbed restrooms with wash facilities, these facilities will be well marked so they are easily found by event participants and will be regularly cleaned, refreshed (grey water dumped, fresh water filled) and stocked

with supplies. Event participants have the responsibility of using wash stations and sanitizing stations regularly to reduce the spread of disease.

Food Vendors: The Fair Commission will install physical barriers at the permanent food vendor booths to provide for separation of booth staff and the public. Consideration will be taken to avoid significant reduction in air-flow. These barriers will be clear plexiglass that provide access below them for exchange of money and orders and open space above them for air flow. If deemed necessary, access to a booth by the public will be limited to one or two points of contact. Temporary food vendors (food trucks, pop-up tents, etc.) will be responsible for providing similar barriers at their stands.

Sharing food service items and congregation around food service areas can pose a risk for disease transmission. Regulations to prevent sharing or re-use of eating containers and utensils, beverage dispensers, condiments, and self-service items, for example, will be enforced through either the Sanders County Sanitarian, other jurisdictional entities, or the Fair Commission. Cleaning procedures and related details will also be guided under the same jurisdiction.

Retail Goods Vendors: Vendors selling retail goods and providing information to the public will be encouraged to clean their products as much as possible, especially after a customer has touched them. This is also true for any credit card processing equipment. It will also be required that small signs be erected in each booth asking visitors to touch products as little as possible.

Direction to Specific User Groups: Specific user groups and event groups (4-H/FFA, PRCA Rodeo Contestants, and Demolition Derby teams, for instance) will be provided information prior to the event regarding personal responsibility and regulations related to infectious diseases while at the Sanders County Fair & Rodeo. These groups will be expected to support and encouraged to promote regulations adopted by the Fair Commission. In addition, it will be recommended that teams and personnel functions are compartmentalized into cells containing the fewest number of people possible.

Face Coverings: The use of face coverings by the general public will be encouraged consistent with CDC guidelines, but will only be required when an official, active directive mandates their use. For volunteers, contracted employees, vendors, and county employees mask use will be required consistent with CDC guidelines. Clear definitions of which individuals are expected to mask during their participation will be provided by the Fair Commission in consultation with the Sanders County Board of Health no later than 1 week prior to the event.

Health Screenings: Ill individuals should not attend the event.

- Pursuant to the PRCA's Covid-19 Ground Rules and Safety Guidelines, the PRCA may require Rodeo participants (Contestants, Stock Contractors, Contract Personnel, and Rodeo Committee members) to be screened outside of the arena before being granted access. For those applicable individuals it is the PRCA who will determine health screening criteria.
- Workers employed by Sanders County or volunteers of the event shall undergo daily screening for symptoms of illness and should be symptom and fever free for a minimum of 72 hours before participation in the event. Individuals with a confirmed infection, with known exposure to infection in the last 14 days, exhibiting physical symptoms of infection or experiencing a fever will not participate in the event and will instead consult a medical provider.

- Health screenings for each spectator are not feasible due to the volume of adult visitors anticipated and the requirement for parental consent to screen minors that may be unaccompanied. Personal risk assessment will be encouraged through public outreach.

Social Distancing: The Fair Commission will produce and erect signage (as above) to assist the general public in recalling the need to socially distance when appropriate, and will stress, through public outreach as previously stated, the reliance on an individuals' choice to attend events where grandstand seating may limit the opportunity for social distancing. In addition, the Fair Commission will consider reducing sales of tickets in the grandstands in order to allow for greater social distancing during events under appropriate circumstances.

Indoor Spaces: Where feasible indoor space ventilation systems will be set to maximum to encourage circulation of outdoor air as much as possible. This includes opening windows and doors (unless there is a safety risk) and establishing one-way flow of visitor through the space.

Animal Barns: One-way traffic through the barns for the visiting public will be established and signage will be erected asking visitors to limit crowding within the viewing lanes. 4-H, FFA, and Open Class participants will be asked to help remind visitors of single-direction traffic through the barns and to practice social distancing.

Sanitation: Shared-use facilities (restrooms, hand wash stations, etc.) will be frequently cleaned to help reduce transmission of disease, typically four times per day. Extra staff or contractors will be utilized as Sanitation Teams to accomplish the goal of disinfecting facilities between users. In addition, the Fair Commission will consider ways that users can assist through self-sanitizing methods. For instance, laminated signs may be placed on picnic tables to identify those that have been disinfected and those that were used and are awaiting disinfection.

Grandstands: The challenge with general seating is that it is not feasible to supervise these sections. Voluntary social distancing and face-covering use will be encouraged but not mandated or enforced. Spectators will not be allowed to congregate in through-traffic areas.

Restrooms/Porta-Potties: In order to alleviate crowding caused by waiting guests and frequent cleaning, the Fair Commission will increase the number of available restrooms/porta-potties to 125%-150% of normal, to include full functionality of the plumbed restrooms at the carnival area, in the pavilion, near the Ag building, and near the 4H arena, as well as 40 porta-potties and 30-50 hand-washing stations. Restrooms/Porta-Potties will be cleaned by the Sanitation Teams on a rotating basis and will be stocked with hand sanitizer.

### **Enforcement and Jurisdiction**

The Sanders County Public Health Director has jurisdiction over matters related to public health. Event groups will be responsible for enforcing regulations and implementing protocols adopted within their jurisdictional area. The Fair Commission is responsible for enforcing regulations and implementing protocols adopted under the general plan as it relates to the grandstands and common vendor areas.

The Sanders County Board of Health and Clark Fork Valley Hospital will be responsible for providing direction and protocol in the case of an infectious disease outbreak.

### **Zoonotic Vectors (Spread of Disease to Animals)**

The Fair Commission takes seriously the risk of disease spread through zoonotic vectors. Symptomatic animals (i.e. fever, cough, difficulty breathing, short of breath, lethargic, sneezing, runny nose, eye discharge, vomiting, or diarrhea) are not allowed entry to the event. All animals to be housed and/or displayed at the Fair – 4H, FFA, and open class - shall be screened by the event veterinarian prior to being admitted entrance. Any animal that develops any sign of illness will be immediately removed and identified to the event veterinarian and Health Officer for consideration of quarantine.

Recommendations from the Montana State Vet will be followed regarding display and housing of animals at the Fairgrounds.

### **Traveling Amusement Parks and Carnivals**

High touch surfaces will be cleaned after each use, either by event staff or user self-cleaning or a combination of both. If a ride or game cannot be cleaned between each use, it will not be allowed at the event. No indoor rides will be allowed (ie haunted house). Ride capacity will be appropriately reduced and riders grouped by associated guests (i.e. family members or others that are in regular close contact; no strangers) to ensure adequate social distancing. Spacing of rides will ensure that lines do not unduly limit foot traffic or congest areas such that social distancing becomes difficult.

Contracted workers will follow these guidelines in addition to their primary employer requirements:

- Masks - The use of masks will be required when physical distancing is not possible.
- Hand Hygiene - frequent washing of hands or using hand sanitizer will be required. Staff shall avoid touching eyes, nose, and mouth as much as possible.
- Respiratory etiquette - Staff will cover coughs and sneezes either with the inside of their elbow or with a tissue or cloth.

### **Preparing for When Someone Gets Sick**

Disease transmission of some kind may occur at the event. In accordance with local, state, and federal laws, any case of COVID-19 or other reportable illness will be reported by the Health Officer to local health officials. Any issues related to food, water, and wastewater will be reviewed and reported by County Sanitarian. Anyone who has close contact with a person diagnosed with a transmittable reportable illness will be advised to stay home and self-monitor for symptoms, follow CDC guidance if symptoms develop, and be in contact with local health officials.