

COVID And Draft Tests - Fall 2020

Planning for Safe Events:

Draft Test events are held solely by Regional Clubs and it is their decision whether to hold events within their local regulations for gatherings. These comments and guidance are intended to support clubs in their event planning.

As conditions change throughout the country, some of this document may become obsolete. It is also NOT a comprehensive list, just best thinking at this current time. Committees, please continue to share your thoughts - we are always stronger together.

KNOW and FOLLOW Area Directives:

Test Committees MUST know and comply with local and state directives regarding gatherings and social distancing. Be up to date with your state guidelines and when they change.

Be sure to check the guidelines of your own state as well as the state to which you will be traveling.

Venues may have additional directives regarding group sizes. Be up to date and in contact with venues. Some parks are overwhelmed, too, with visitors, local restrictions, and management of these regulations. Following their directives and demonstrating safe practices to the community will help ensure you will be able to return to those venues in following years.

Options for Test Committees to Consider:

Communicate! Communicate! Communicate!

Stay in touch - with the WDC, with your judges, with your stewards and club members, with your entrants. All participants should be made aware of what modifications, if any, will be made for the test and given plenty of time to withdraw without penalty. If entrants are attending from farther away, make sure you can properly advise them regarding safe places to stay, camping, etc. Some properties may require reservations, some hotels may have changed their policies regarding pets. Let the WDC know what your modifications are, so that we can ensure they meet the criteria of changing logistics only and not test regulations.

No participants can show evidence of any aspect of illness, nor have been exposed to a person with COVID-19 within the last two weeks. Taking temperatures is recommended (no participation over 100F). Non touching temperature thermometers should be considered for a club and take temps of all participants - clubs should consider buying one for their tests.

Social distancing no less than 6' must be observed at all times, including meals and breaks.

Masks and face coverings should be worn in accordance with local regulations, except while eating. Please be aware that masks are only effective if they are dry. It is recommended to have spare masks available to supply those whose masks get wet.

There should be no shared food or drink. Food should be packaged, pre-orders only. No general hospitality. A club could choose to not provide any food or drink (exception maybe to judges and committee with water, but I'm sure we can ask them to take care of themselves, too). Again, communicate the plans.

Disinfect bathrooms between uses.

Check in. Test committees need to determine how check in would be handled with social distancing and group size regulations. Some clubs are considering:

- No general check-in for entrants—stagger the start
- Mark distance for a check in table like grocery shopping
- Check in by numerical order, so only one person at the secretary table at a time
- Test secretaries can give all the paperwork to judges at the beginning of the day, so we can limit interaction.

Maintain social distancing as appropriate for your particular area for course walk-throughs.

Each entrant handles their own equipment, laying out as they need as we would when practicing

Limit entries and spectators. If there are spectators, due to disease tracking protocols, a record should be kept of any spectators and their contact information.

No brown bag or other goods sales on site. Just on-line.

No entrant bags/gifts that multiple people have handled.

An award ceremony can be held if social distancing is possible. No group photos of awards without social distancing —social distancing during awards.

Not have post test gatherings that do not comply with state regulations, even home parties.

A proposed sequence would be -- we call each entrant when it's their time—they have been waiting at a distance or in their cars. They go to the sec table to sign/ check-in—no one else need be there.

Stewards should be wearing masks and gloves as needed. If masks get wet, they need to be replaced as wet masks are ineffective.

Test committees should buy a box or two of masks and gloves so they have several spares on site.

Some clubs are considering additional event insurance due to COVID, or additional waivers.

Things for Judges to Consider:

Be in contact with your test committees. If you are not comfortable traveling, please withdraw from your assignment. Local judges, be ready to step up as needed to support your local events.

If you are accepting an assignment, reach out to your test committee - collaborate, review and be comfortable with the modifications the club will be making- also collaborate with the club and the WDC on modifications to ensure a smooth event. Again, we are in this together.

Bring your OWN pens, whistle, clipboard, stopwatch to prevent the need for multiple people handling personal items.

Wear a mask as required by local guidelines.. Keep social distancing at the forefront. Ensure that others are wearing protective gear and keeping it dry, or replacing wet masks.

Be aware of safety for dogs and handlers who may be remaining in cars.

Ensure that social distancing for any Q/A and other activities is maintained.

General Personal Guidance:

Everyone must take these actions:

- When you go out, follow physical distancing requirements (6 feet of space between yourself and others).
- When you go out, Wear a mask according to local regulations. If it gets wet while working, it becomes ineffective. Pack spares, and replace your mask if it gets wet.
- Do not go to a dog event if you are sick.
- People who have COVID-19 symptoms should get tested, and must isolate unless they have a negative test result. As all states continue to work on testing capacity, self-isolating when you are ill is the best course of action. [Please read how to isolate.](#)
- Wash your hands frequently.

Resources

- [AKC COVID guidance](#)
- [NCA event cancellations](#)

Test committees must submit the COVID plan to the Working Dog Committee prior to holding a test.