**Kobuk 440 Covid-19 Polic****y**

*These guidelines have been established by the Kobuk 440 Racing Association with input from health advisors and checkpoint communities. They have been implemented to ensure the safety of the Northwest Arctic residents and K440 participants. Compliance with these rules is mandatory for all racers.*

**Testing**

In accordance with the City of Kotzebue COVID Emergency Regulation No.1, all mushers, race officials, veterinarians and volunteers traveling from outside the region must be vaccinated. Additionally, The Kobuk 440 Racing Association strongly recommends all local mushers, race officials and volunteers be vaccinated. All mushers, race officials and volunteers, regardless of vaccination status, must be tested within 48 hours of the start of the race. The Kobuk 440 Racing Association will work with the Maniilaq Health Center to provide rapid testing for participants.

All mushers, race officials, participants and volunteers will be identified prior to the race and must provide proof of vaccination (for participants from outside the region) or a negative result from a COVID-19 test within 48 hours of the race start OR proof that you have recovered from COVID-19 within the last 90 days. Documentation can be emailed to kobuk440@gmail.com.

Travel

Individuals traveling from outside the Northwest Arctic for the race will be limited but will include: mushers, handlers, race officials, and veterinarians. The Racing Association has established a cap on musher entries to 12 mushers from outside of the Northwest Arctic. Upon arrival in Kotzebue each visitor may undergo additional tests in accordance with City of Kotzebue guidance. This policy is subject to change depending on the City of Kotzebue mandates at the time of the race.

If you feel ill or are experiencing [COVID-19 symptoms](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html) we urge you not to travel to Kotzebue, even if you have a recent negative test.

Registration fees will be refunded for any musher who cannot race because of a positive test or because they have symptoms consistent with Covid-19.

Musher Lodging

Lodging will be arranged by the Racing Association as available at the hotel or approved private residences. We will provide housing for one handler per musher. Racers and their handlers should expect to share a room. Please do not invite any additional family or friends to travel with you.

Checkpoints

Plan A: If public facilities in the villages can be safely used, access will be limited to mushers and volunteers who have provided proof of testing and adherence to CDC guidelines on COVID-19.

Plan B: If public facilities are not available, Kobuk 440 Racing Association will establish a checkpoint outside of the village.

A limited crew of volunteers will include timekeepers, dog-care assistants, cooks, and cleaners. Volunteers will be identified prior to the race and provide proof of COVID-19 test, etc. Volunteers will be wearing masks when not drinking or eating and will maintain a distance of six feet from other volunteers when possible. The public will not be permitted at the checkpoint.

Start/Finish/Headquarters

While it is necessary to cancel the cherished public events associated with the race, the Kobuk 440 Racing Association remains committed to engaging Northwest Arctic residents in the Kobuk 440 and dog mushing. We will find creative ways to maintain community engagement such as the Annual Easter Basket Drawing for kids in the race checkpoints.

The Kobuk 440 Racing Association’s goal is to help protect the health of volunteers, participants, attendees, and the local community at all checkpoints of the event.

The drawing will be a small, masked event limited to mushers and race officials that will be shared (livestreamed or uploaded) online.

At the Mass Start, we encourage all onlookers to remain in vehicles, wear a mask when outside of your vehicle, and maintain a distance of six feet from others.

There will be no public headquarters.

Awards will be presented to the race finishers in a small, masked gathering with race officials. The event will be shared (livestreamed or uploaded) online.

Updated April 2022