



2021 HTC/PTC AND HTC RACE SERIES COMPREHENSIVE SOCIAL DISTANCE SAFETY PLAN AND PROTOCOLS

HTC/PTC and HTC Race Series organizers have scheduled 2021 relay events. Events will be held in accordance to the law, with support from the Governor of Oregon and the Oregon Health Authority with clear and enforceable protocols and rules. **Our top priority is preserving participant and volunteer safety.**

Relay events are innately socially distanced as only one member of a relay team participates at any given time. Therefore, even *the most popular relay race in the world*, Hood To Coast / Portland To Coast Relays, which annually hosts over 18,000 participants, will have 1,450 participants dispersed throughout a 200-mile race course. **That is one participant every 739 feet.**

Race organizers will implement protocols and rules at the smaller scale one-day HTC Windy River Relay prior to the Hood To Coast / Portland To Coast Relays. During this event, no more than 125 participants will be on the race course at any given time. Dispersed over 75 miles, this means one participant every 3,168 feet. Of course, varying paces and teams at race exchanges allow for greater or lesser social distancing. Therefore, race organizers will strictly enforce new rules.

FAQs:

2021 HTC/PTC and HTC Race Series Comprehensive Social Distance Safety Plan and Protocols are subject to change based off of recommendations from, but not limited to, the Oregon Health, CDC and other guidance. Testing of these protocols at HTC one-day relays may lead to revisions, based on their implementation at events.

Q. What are some of the major initiatives outlined in the 2021 HTC/PTC and HTC Race Series (HTC) Comprehensive Social Distance Safety Plan and Protocols?

A. We take coronavirus (COVID-19) concerns seriously. At this time, we are actively planning the following measures to ensure safety for all participants and volunteers:

- Participants are required to carry face-coverings and utilize them within six-feet of other participants, while running or walking their assigned legs.
- Require use of face covering (HTC/PTC will provide if participant does not bring) for team members on the course not actively running/walking their assigned legs (Start, Exchange, Finish) if outside of the team vehicle.
- Start waves of 12 participants max AND start wave distancing (start waves every 5 minutes over 13 hours).
- Contactless Team Check-In via [Hood To Coast App](#).
- Increased portable toilets, hand-washing stations and sanitizers.

- Clear, inclusively designed signage, ensuring proper social-distancing at Start, Exchanges, Finish.
- One time minimal Finish, excluding sit down beach dining, beer/wine garden and entertainment (back for 2022)!
- All race official volunteers will be provided with a free new reflective vest to keep and mask to wear at all times during shift, as well as special online social distance training.
- Place medal awards distributed contactless from the beach on Sunday, picking up anytime 9:00-11:00am.

Q. How does HTC/PTC plan to communicate and disseminate information about the 2021 Comprehensive Safety Plan and Protocols?

A. The 2021 Comprehensive Safety Plan and Protocols is distributed to all stakeholders including, but not limited to sponsors, city, county, and state governing bodies, and host sites for event start lines, exchange areas, and finish lines. HTC/PTC has made *preventing the spread of COVID-19* its most important message included in the 2021 marketing calendar utilizing its email database, website, and social media to continually reiterate top protocols taken by the race and those expected of participants throughout the 2021 calendar.

Q. Which organizations, agencies, or individuals were sources for the creation of the comprehensive 2021 Social Distance Plan and Protocols?

A. Internal Hood To Coast management created the Social Distance Plan & Protocol, based on guidance from the Oregon Governor's Office, Oregon Health Authority, CDC and Providence Health & Services. Additionally, we're proud to have an active HTC/PTC Inclusion and Multicultural Engagement Committee which convened a subcommittee to provide tangible feedback on the Social Distance Plan and Protocols.

Q. Will HTC/PTC and HTC Race Series seek and gain approval from local governing bodies prior to operating events?

A. HTC/PTC staff work with over 50 permitting bodies in Oregon and Washington to distribute Social Distance Plan and Protocols, as well as seek input and approval for operating safe relay events in 2021.

Q. Which measures is HTC/PTC implementing to slow the spread of COVID-19?

- A. A. We want YOU to have the ability race this summer, so are following the advice of the Center for Disease Control and title sponsor Providence Health & Services by recommending you: 1) wear a mask; 2) avoid indoor gatherings unless vaccinated; 3) maintain 6' physical distance; 4) frequently wash or sanitize your hands, and 5) get vaccinated when you can.

At this time, we are actively planning the following measures to ensure safety for all participants and volunteers:

- Limit the number of participants in start waves AND start wave distancing
- Contactless Team Check-In (via HTC App) and drive through Packet Pick-Up
- Require use of face-coverings, when proper social distancing cannot be achieved
- Increased portable toilets, hand-washing stations, and providing disinfectant

- Clear, inclusively designed signage, ensuring proper social-distancing at Start, Exchanges, and Finish
- Redesigned Start and Finish areas to minimize points of contact

Q. How does HTC/PTC plan to distance relay-race start waves?

A. Start Waves will include a maximum of 12 runners or walkers. Participants will line-up in rows of four runners or walkers, while maintaining six feet of distance between other participants. Only Van 1 will be allowed at race Start Areas, and only the Leg 1 Runners or Leg 13 Walkers and one other teammate are allowed at the Start Area. Face-coverings are required, when proper social distancing cannot be achieved. The spreading of Start Waves over a longer duration of time allows for much greater distancing on the race course, exchange areas, and the finish line.

Q. How will HTC/PTC increase further cleanliness of restroom areas?

A. By having dramatically more start waves with fewer participants in each, HTC/PTC will be substantially reducing the number of people at the Start, exchange areas, and Finish utilizing portable toilets at one time. Additional portable toilets and sanitizing stations are also acquired for 2021 events. Additionally, Honey Bucket and HTC/PTC have dedicated staff responsible for increased sanitation of portable toilets, replenishment of hand sanitizing stations, and to ensure proper social distancing at portable toilet areas.

Q. Which changes will be made to relay exchange zones?

A. Wrist wraps will not be utilized in 2021 and teammates will do a distanced (10-20 feet) “air tag” hand-off. HTC/PTC will require the use of face-coverings when proper social distancing cannot be achieved. Sponsor activations will be minimized to decrease touch points. 30-minute penalties will be assessed to Teams with teammates not wearing face-coverings when proper social distancing cannot be achieved. Only the participating runner or walker, and one additional teammate/timer are recommended to be out of the team vehicle at Major Race Exchanges. Also note the changes previously discussed about porta potties.

Q. Will face-coverings be required for race participants in common areas?

A. HTC/PTC will require use of face-coverings when proper social distancing cannot be achieved. 30-minute penalties will be assessed to Teams with team members not wearing face-coverings, when proper social distancing cannot be achieved. Only the participating runner or walker, and one additional teammate/timer are recommended to be out of the team vehicle at Major Race Exchanges.

Q. Will face-coverings be required for race participants actively running or walking their assigned leg?

A. Participants will be required to carry face-coverings with them while participating. The use of face-coverings, while participating, will be required when proper social distancing cannot be achieved. 30-minute penalties will be assessed to Teams with team members not wearing face-coverings, when proper social distancing cannot be achieved. Use of face-coverings is highly recommended at all times.

Q. How will HTC/PTC communicate social distance rules and protocols during the event(s)?

A. While there is a Comprehensive Social Distance/Safety Plan and Protocols, there is also a fully established Communication Plan. HTC/PTC has made *preventing the spread of COVID-19* its most important message included in the 2021 calendar utilizing email, website, and social media to continually reiterate protocols taken by the race and those expected of participants. This messaging will be utilized during race week, and will be accompanied by Start and Finish Line announcements and NEW straightforward inclusively designed signage, ensuring proper social-distancing along the race courses.

Q. As for vehicle capacity; how are teams to abide by CDC guidelines in close quarters? Are more vehicles to be used or how is this suppose to be adhered to?

A. At this time, we are encouraging teams to have no more than six people in race vehicles. We ask teams not to include additional team support in race vehicles like trainers, drivers, or coaches that increase the vehicle occupants above six people at any one time. We also encourage vehicle occupants to wear face-coverings. As race organizers, we will continue to assess, based on current conditions, whether to amend these safety protocols and guidelines.

Q. How will the race Start and Finish areas change to slow the spread of COVID-19 and minimize touch points?

A. Start Waves will include a maximum of 12 runners or walkers. Participants will line-up in rows of four runners or walkers, while maintaining six feet of distance between other participants. Only Van 1 will be allowed at race Start Areas, and only the Leg 1 Runners or Leg 13 Walkers and one other teammate are allowed at the Start Area. Face-coverings are required, when proper social distancing cannot be achieved. The spreading of Start Waves over a longer duration of time allows for much greater distancing on the race course, exchange areas, and the finish line. Additionally, the Finish Area for 2021 only will not include a beer/wine garden or food garden with seating, or a main stage with live entertainment. The 2021 simplified Finish Area will be open on the beach for people to freely move about.

Q. How does HTC/PTC plan to implement and successfully execute the 2021 Comprehensive Safety Plan and Protocols?

A. Race organizers will implement protocols and rules at the smaller scale one-day HTC Windy River Relay prior to Hood To Coast / Portland To Coast Relays. During this event, no more than 125 participants will be on the race course at any given time. Dispersed over 75 miles, this means one participant every 3,168 feet. Of course, varying paces and teams at race exchanges allow for greater or lesser social distancing. Protocols learned and practiced at HTC Windy River will again be implemented the following month at the Hood & Portland To Coast Relays.

Q. Will there be penalties for non-compliance, and how will they be enforced?

A. This list is subject to change, and actions will be strictly enforced. HTC/PTC and HTC Race Series officials will penalize teams and individuals for not adhering to guidelines. Penalties may include 30- and 60-minute race penalties, and race suspensions and/or bans if truly necessitated.