



Hello NWMVCA Members, Vendors and supporters

RE: NWMVCA Fall 2021 Meeting

The NWMVC Association Executive held an emergency, virtual meeting, on 24 September 2021 to discuss the upcoming fall tentatively scheduled for 05-07 October 2021 in Boise Idaho.

After much discussion surrounding the current status of COVID 19 in Idaho, and the need to support local and national public health initiatives the Executive has decided that it would be best to postpone the NWMVCA Fall meeting until next spring and tentatively in April 2022. This decision was not taken lightly and once new dates have been finalized, we will update our website and inform our members.

Before making this decision, our Executive Director reached out to local Health officials and we considered the potential risks, and the minimum actions/procedures we could reasonably be expected to establish and implement, to provide for a safe environment. The CDC guidance document ([cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/large-events](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/large-events)) reaffirms the risk factors to be considered for attendees and organizers of any large gathering. These include:

1. Number of COVID cases in the community. High or increasing levels of COVID 19 cases in the event location or the locations the attendees are coming from increases the risk of infection and spread among attendees.

Currently COVID-19 cases and ICU bed use are climbing in the Boise and surrounding areas.

2. Exposure during travel. Airports, planes, buses, public transport, gas stations, rest stops are all places where physical distancing may be challenging, ventilation may be poor and high touch surfaces are common.

This would affect probably +80% of meeting attendees, plus our first day was to be a day bus tour.

3. Setting of the Event. Indoor events, especially in places with poor ventilation, pose more of risk than outdoor events.

Our meetings, Banquet and Social events would be indoors. Bus trip for tours of local Districts.

4. Length of the event. Events that last longer pose more risk than shorter events. Being within 6 feet of someone who has COVID-19 for a total of 15 minutes or more (over a 24-hour period) greatly increases the risk of becoming infected and require quarantine.



Meeting presentations, bus trips, our planned social event for the first evening and the wrap-up Banquet would have made the 6-foot distancing, wearing of masks, ongoing cleaning/sanitation activities etc. a challenge.

5. Number and crowding of people at the event. Events with more people increase the likelihood of being exposed. The size of the event should be determined based on whether attendees from different households can stay at least 6 feet apart. Physical distancing at events can reduce transmission risk. See all of the above.

6. Behavior of attendees during an event. Events where people engage in behaviors such as interacting with others from outside of their household, singing, shouting, not maintaining physical distancing, or not wearing mask consistently and correctly, can increase risk. Pretty much everything we do at our meeting, in the vendor rooms, the socials, banquet and hospitality rooms would be breaking these mandates.

As participants in public health and safety it was felt that the Association and its membership should do our best to support these initiatives, promote healthy behaviours and to set an example of responsible, and appropriate concern for the health and well-being of our members, their families, and the general public.

We sincerely apologize if any member, agency or company will incur some financial injury (room, or flight deposit, reservation fees etc.) as a result of the decision to postpone the meeting to April 2022. We hope, that given these are unprecedented times, that hotels, airlines, car rental companies and the like, will provide their valued customers (you) with an appropriate refund, credit or a postponement of any deposits or monies you may extended. And further to that point, the NWMVCA wants to assure its members that those requesting/requiring refunds of monies they have advanced the association for meeting fees/reservations would be honoured. Given this meeting is not cancelled but just postponed, it is hoped that most members will wish to have their meeting deposit be held by the Association and “rolled over” for the meeting in April. If you require a refund, please contact Mr. Chris Law, Secretary/Treasurer and we can arrange refunds. If you wish to have us roll over your deposit, no action on your part is required. In the absence of a request for refund, we will hold this deposit.

Yours truly

Curtis Fediuk, NWMVCA President
2020/2021