



August 3, 2021

Dear Ride Family,

As the excitement builds for this year's in-person New England Parkinson's Ride, so too does our concern regarding the resurgence of the Coronavirus. While the majority of the new Covid-19 cases are among the non-vaccinated, there is growing concern about the increasing number of vaccinated individuals who are contracting the virus. This concern is magnified for us, given the number of individuals at our event who have Parkinson's Disease and are at a significantly higher risk of severe illness should they contract the virus.

Obviously, the last thing we want to do is to jeopardize the health and well-being of those for whom the New England Parkinson's Ride was created.

Because the weekend activities are being held *entirely outdoors* and are designed to minimize the density of participants on and off the bike, and in keeping with current CDC guidelines for outdoor activities, we do not plan to require proof of vaccination in order to participate or attend the event. **We are however, counting on the fact that all of you appreciate the nature of the event and will do everything in your power to keep your ride family safe.** If you are not vaccinated, we ask that you either get tested before coming up or opt for the Cycle in Sync option this year, to avoid the risk of exposing those who are most vulnerable in our community.

As an added precaution we will require, and provide, masks for all volunteers and ask that they be worn when handling any food or drink, providing medical or roadside assistance, and when in close contact with riders or other volunteers for an extended period of time.

Cyclists will not be required to wear masks while riding but we ask that masks be worn when gathering at the starting line and when receiving medical or equipment assistance, as well as when in close contact with other cyclists or volunteers for an extended period of time. Please make sure to bring your masks with you. A limited number will be available for purchase, should you forget.

Hand sanitizer will be available in multiple areas of The Ballpark and at all rest stops. Showers will not be available this year.

As a reminder, the option to Cycle In Sync will always be there and changes can be made by sending a quick email to Jen@neparkinsonsride.org. Though we can accept those changes right up until ride day, we will only be able to mail t-shirts out to those who notify us by September 1st.

We will continue to monitor national, state, and local guidelines and will provide additional updates as they become available.

Thank you for your ongoing support and your shared determination in our fight toward a cure for Parkinson's Disease. Thank you *especially* for making decisions that will protect the most vulnerable among us.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Cindy'.

Cindy Woods Theberge
Executive Director