



Newberry Watermelon Festival Statement Regarding COVID-19

The goal of social distancing is to limit the exposure by reducing face-to-face contact and preventing spread among people in community settings. What these actions look like at the community level will vary depending on local conditions.

Therefore, as part of the COVID-19 response planning, the Newberry Watermelon Festival (NWF) will make necessary enhanced adjustments in order to minimize the health impacts of the virus. Since the festival and parade are entirely outdoor events, following social distancing guidelines should be easy. During the festival and parade activities, the NWF encourages all volunteers and vendors, as well as the general public, to wear masks and adhere to the 6-foot social distancing recommendations. Additionally, the NWF asks that everyone utilize the hand sanitizing stations throughout the grounds of the festival. All restrooms will have sanitizing stations and everyone is strongly encouraged to utilize them each time the facilities are used. Further, all watermelons to be consumed at the festival shall be thoroughly washed prior to use. For participants in the parade, each parade individual/group are instructed to remain greater than six (6) feet apart from other individuals/groups throughout the entirety of the parade, including parade lineup.

Although the risk of severe illness may be different for everyone, anyone can get and spread COVID-19. Everyone has a role to play in slowing the spread and protecting themselves, their families, and their community. By visiting and/or participating in the NWF and/or parade activities, guests/participants voluntarily assume all risks related to exposure to COVID-19.