



Llama Shows and Covid-19

Questions have been raised about why we are proceeding with planning for the 2020 Gathering at a time when we are all under "stay at home" orders to combat the spread of Covid-19. For those who have planned even a small llama show, you understand the tremendous planning and expenses that takes place beginning at least 12 months before the event and continuing right up to arrival of the animals and exhibitors. The Gathering is one of the two largest llama shows in North America, so the job is that much bigger. If there is a chance that the event is going to happen, we cannot let up on planning for the event to succeed. We must have the entry procedures underway and are proceeding with solicitation of sponsors, vendors, and sale animals. The Board of Directors and all who are involved in planning are tracking daily the developments in our country's fight against this virus. We are aware that the predictions for returning to some degree of normalcy run the gauntlet from a few weeks to a few years. That's quite a range! We also understand the return to normalcy may vary in different parts of the country and are monitoring the potential impact that may have on our exhibitors. That will all be taken into consideration before a final decision is made. For now, we continue to **Move Forward Together**.

If you have gone to The Gathering's website you know that we have linked Covid-19 information and have already committed to full refunds of any entry fees if the event is canceled. Likewise, we know the llama community is very anxious for a show if it is safe and possible. All of our April and May shows have been canceled. With our late June date for The Gathering, we remain hopeful of the possibility of a safe event. A decision will be made no later than the beginning of June once we know where that region and the nation stand in terms of restrictions and appropriate procedures for large events. Safety is a very high consideration for animals and exhibitors. Join us in hoping for the possibility of a safe and successful event.

Continue to check back for additional information at The Gathering website:
www.ilrsdthegathering.com

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