

NMTS Club Rides During the Pandemic

NMTS Continues to sponsor club rides in compliance with New Mexico Department of Health (NMDOH) orders during the pandemic. NMDOH has set a red to green framework that among other things set limits on gathering sizes based on health risk. NMTS Club rides will comply with established NMTS policies and NMDOH regulations. Members are encouraged to visit the [NMDOH website](#) to familiarize themselves with current regulations and advice for COVID-safe practices as well as the [public dashboard](#) to see the current official level.

Of particular concern for club rides is mass gathering limits. The red to green framework sets the following limits for each level.

Level	Maximum
Red	5
Yellow	10
Green	20

In order to adhere to these limits the club has initiated a virtual-group option for club rides. Until now this was the only option for club rides. Virtual-group rides are defined as rides with no set specific start time. Participants conduct the ride at any time on the given day and notify the ride leader after the ride to receive club mileage credit. With this update the club is reintroducing the option of offering traditional group rides. Ride leaders will have three options for their rides as listed below. It is recommended that before proposing starting a new traditional ride, a potential ride leader review the [NMTS ride leader policy](#).

1. Virtual-Group Rides

Leaders of virtual group rides set the start time as 1:00 AM. Riders (including the leader) can conduct their ride at any time during the given day for that ride. At the end of the day the participants will communicate their mileage to the ride leader who will provide a mileage report to the mileage chairman.

- In the “Description and Route” box add these words: “This is a virtual-group ride being conducted in accordance with the NMTS Club Rides During Pandemic document that is available on the NMTS website homepage.”
- The Number of Miles should be less than or equal to the planned distance for the ride course. Riders cannot obtain more club mileage credit than this number.
- The start location map must clearly indicate the start location. The Ride Submission Form explains how to create a start location map if the start location is not one of the already provided start locations.
- The Ride Leader must provide a turn-by-turn route description or provide a RideWithGPS.com or similar mapping/queueing capability.

2. Traditional Group Rides Allowing Virtual Participation

Traditional group rides shall have a set start time. To ensure compliance with the mass gathering limit ride leaders should be ready to break their group up into smaller groups with alternate leader(s). Those riders who participate virtually will communicate their mileage to the ride leader who will provide a mileage report to the mileage chairman.

- In the “Description and Route” box add these words: “This ride is being conducted in accordance with the NMTS Club Rides During Pandemic document that is available on the NMTS website homepage. Group or individual participation is allowed”
- The Number of Miles should be less than or equal to the planned distance for the ride course. Riders cannot obtain more club mileage credit than this number.
- The start location map must clearly indicate the start location. The Ride Submission Form explains how to create a start location map if the start location is not one of the already provided start locations.
- The Ride Leader must provide a turn-by-turn route description or provide a RideWithGPS.com or similar mapping/queueing capability.

3. Traditional Group Rides

Traditional group rides shall have a set start time. To ensure compliance with the mass gathering limit ride leaders should be ready to break their group up into smaller groups with alternate leader(s).

- In the “Description and Route” box add these words: “This ride is being conducted in accordance with the NMTS Club Rides During Pandemic document that is available on the NMTS website homepage.”

Additional Requirements for All Rides

- Each ride will be conducted on a single day.
- Mountain Bike and Out of Town rides are fine.
- Recurring (weekly) rides can be ridden under these guidelines.
- Participants riding in a group should ride at least three bike-lengths apart.
- COVID-Safe practices must be maintained throughout the ride.
- The Ride Leader will be the sole and final determiner of the club mileage credit that each participant will receive.
- The Ride Leader will submit a consolidated report for all ride participants to the Mileage Chairman (mileagechairman@nmts.org).

If you have any questions or need assistance with submitting a ride you should contact Frank Bouchier at mileagechairman@nmts.org .