

COVID-19 SOP FOR GBPA DANIEL LADY FARM REENACTMENTS

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PREFACE

This Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) and guidelines for reenactors serve three main purposes:

1. To prevent transmission of disease.
2. To comply with or accommodate governmental emergency COVID-19 orders, guidelines and recommendations.
3. To allow visitors and reenactors alike to feel comfortable with participating in a Daniel Lady Farm Event.

We take the health and safety of our all participants -- vendors, reenactors, visitors, staff and volunteers—very seriously. Only with your help can we get through this difficult time and prepare for more traditional reenactments in times ahead.

U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Guiding Principles for Camps summarized and adapted for a larger scale reenactment with units from different geographical regions and localities.

The more people a camper or staff member interacts with, and the longer that interaction, the higher the risk of COVID-19 spread.

- **Lowest Risk:** Small groups of campers stay together all day, each day. Campers remain at least 6 feet apart and do not share objects. Outdoor activities are prioritized. All campers in a group/campsite are from the same local geographic area (e.g., city, town, county, community -- or in this case, the same reenactment unit/company).
- **More Risk:** Campers mix between groups/units but remain at least 6 feet apart and do not share objects. Outdoor activities are prioritized. All campers are from the same local geographic area (e.g., community, town, city, or county).
- **Even More Risk:** Campers mix between groups/units and do not remain spaced apart. All campers are from the same local geographic area (e.g., community, town, city, or county).
- **Highest Risk:** Campers mix between groups/units not from the same local geographic area (e.g., community, town, city, or county), and do not remain spaced apart.

COVID-19 is mostly spread by respiratory droplets released when people talk, cough, or sneeze. It is thought that the virus may spread to hands from a contaminated surface and then to the nose or mouth, causing infection. Therefore, personal prevention practices (such as social distancing, [handwashing](#), [staying home when sick](#)), and environmental [cleaning and disinfection](#) are important principles in disease prevention. It is especially important for units to adhere to mask and social distancing recommendations when visiting or mixing with units and friends from different localities and states.

This SOP seeks to mitigate these identified risks and reflect the guidance from the PA Department of Health, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and recommendations from several campground and RV organizations.

Promoting Behaviors that Reduce COVID-19 Spread

GBPA is implementing several of these CDC recommended strategies to encourage behaviors that reduce the spread of COVID-19. Commanding officers and field staff at all levels should understand the risk assessment above and reinforce these precautions with all reenactment unit members, both prior to and at the beginning of the event.

1. Staying Home when Appropriate.

All reenactors and event participants including vendors, staff and visitors who are sick or have recently had [close contact](#) with a person with COVID-19 should stay home. Reenactors who must stay home due to illness or COVID-19 exposure may opt to transfer their reservation fee to another GBPA event, receive a refund, or donate their fee to Daniel Lady Farm preservation.

2. Hand Hygiene and Respiratory Etiquette.

Reinforce the importance of frequent [handwashing](#) with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not readily available, hand sanitizer should be used. Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or a shirt/uniform sleeve. Used tissues should be thrown in the trash (not reused) and hands washed immediately or use hand sanitizer. Bring hand sanitizer for group use and small bottles for personal use. Wash hands frequently if possible in camp or at available hand washing stations.

3. Cloth Face Coverings.

Face coverings should be worn by event participants as feasible, and are most essential in times when physical distancing is difficult. The previously issued GBPA guidelines for campers remain instructive. Bring a mask for personal use – or a bandana if preferred -- especially when away from the unit campsite when social distancing may become difficult -- like when visiting other units, the farm's historic buildings, or public areas, food concessions, sutlers, or living history (LH) areas. Under PA COVID-19 emergency orders issued on July 1st, wearing masks is required when visiting farm's historic buildings, concessions, sutlers and other vendors, riding farm transports (including wagons) or whenever social distancing is difficult. There is a general exception for people with health problems that make wearing masks especially difficult, or children under 2 years old. (see <https://www.governor.pa.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/20200701-SOH-Universal-Face-Coverings-Order.pdf>)

Use of face masks and social distancing are interrelated strategies to reduce disease transmission. Face coverings may be challenging for reenactors in settings such as in camp and reenactment scenarios. Special consideration must be given to planning skirmish scenarios and military maneuvers to honor guidelines and to protect fellow reenactors and visitors.

Information should be provided to staff and campers on [proper use, removal, and washing of cloth face coverings](#). [Cloth face coverings](#) are meant to protect other people in case the wearer is unknowingly infected but does not have [symptoms](#). Cloth face coverings are not surgical masks, respirators, or other medical personal protective equipment. Remember “My mask protects you; your mask protects me.”

4. Honor Social Distancing with at least 6 feet separation as a norm, with more distance for living history presentations.

- Reduce risk factors in campsites.
 - To the extent feasible, follow the camping guidelines at GBPA.org. Reenactment camps are closed to ticket holding visitors during event hours (not including family, etc.). However units are encouraged to schedule living history presentations for the public in areas set aside for that purpose.
 - Living history demonstrations should especially keep extra distance (at least 18 feet) from visitors especially if not using a mask. Use visual barriers to remind guests of distance (not unlike the procedures often used with LH programs on the Gettysburg National Military Park)
 - To the fullest extent possible Quartermasters should allow for spacing tents 6 feet apart and provide for additional space between units/companies.
- No shoulder-to-shoulder formations in march, dress parade, or inspections – especially when masks are not being worn. March in “Route Step” with social distancing. Keep social distancing during parade and inspection formations.
- No Civil War battle firing lines without social distancing; use skirmish lines and similar forms of attack. Use scenarios that make this more feasible and historically accurate.
- Artillery & Cavalry: watch your distances as feasible.
- Command meetings should require social distancing and encourage masks.

5. Security and Decorum.

As with past events, security will be provided by GBPA appointed security with local and state law enforcement. Firearms -- other than those historically appropriate to the time period and approved by military commanders -- are not permitted in camp or at the reenactment. If necessary, they must be appropriately and safely secured in a locked vehicle. Event staff may call upon Provost Marshals to assist as appropriate.

Gettysburg has been the target of several threats in recent years. Several of those appear to have been “false flag” threats. The GBPA takes all threats seriously. The GBPA’s Daniel Lady Farm will not be host to any protests, demonstrations or counter demonstrations, nor be used as a staging area or home base for such activities. The GBPA is a private, non-profit, charitable corporation. Its properties may not be used for any purpose which has not been approved.

6. Food Concessions and Sutlers/Vendors

Concessions must follow procedures and guidance by the PA Department of Health and CDC including wearing masks when preparing food or dealing with the public. Set up should allow for social distancing in cooperation with the GBPA. Masks are required for all PA businesses and their customers unless there is a medical exemption or for children under the age of 2. Vendors should be familiar with PA rules, guidance for business and restaurants, as well as mask and social distancing orders and guidelines.

<https://www.governor.pa.gov/covid-19/business-guidance/> <https://www.governor.pa.gov/covid-19/restaurant-industry-guidance/>
<https://www.governor.pa.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/20200701-SOH-Universal-Face-Coverings-Order.pdf>

In cooperation with the GBPA, concessions and vendors should be prepared to manage visitor traffic patterns and set limits on occupancy to allow for social distancing. All vendors and concession must have a visible hand sanitizer dispenser available for public use. Vendors should consider offering personal size hand sanitizer available for sale.

7. Living History Presentations including demonstrations of Civil War era military and civilian life

As with presentations by units (above), living history presentations should especially keep 6 feet with masks -- and extra distance (18 feet or more) from visitors if not using a mask. Use visual barriers to remind guests of distance (not unlike the procedures used on with LH programs on the Park.) Be prepared to accommodate visitor traffic patterns that allows for distancing. No food sharing (except as above in #6). No "please touch" artifacts. No LH presentations that violate the 6 feet with masks rule.

8. Duties of Officers, Event Staff, Presenters and Vendors

Every attempt must be made to carry out the COVID-19 SOP and the underlying principles in the CDC and other guidelines.

Conclusion:

It is especially important that our staff, reenactors and living historians convey a respect for the health and sensitivities of each other and the public at large whenever they mix and come in close contact at the event.

Thank you for caring enough to take the time to read all of this information and to make this year's events are a success under very challenging conditions. We hope to be able to resume hosting more "normal" Civil War events in the not too distant future but that is collectively up to all of us. Until then, we're thankful to be able to provide you with a place to commemorate our Civil War history and honor those who fought here and who suffered the aftermath.

Additions to this SOP be made at any time or modified or superseded by guidance from the PA Dept of Health or the CDC. Addition details on the event and this SOP will be available from GBPA Vice President Kirk Davis and his event staff. If you have any questions, contact us at info@GBPA.org. See you soon!