

We want everyone to understand that we hold safety first and foremost in our plans. On the water and on the shore.

This year will present special challenges. We have no way of knowing what the status will be on July 9, but we have adapted to the current situation.

Please remember that this is a Swim, not a race: a local, casual, friendly neighborhood event that has grown to attract a large following around the country and around the world. We are very proud of our success but nothing will contribute to a loss a safety.

Please also keep in mind that this is a charitable event. Your registration fee and your fundraising supports the Hospice Care Network, an organization that is more important now than ever before. Your registration fee is a donation, we do not offer refunds.

The following changes will be in effect:

- We will not supply any transport. Swimmers and kayakers will be responsible for getting to the Lighthouse.
- We may need to start in shifts rather than the shotgun start
- We may need to control the rate at which swimmers arrive at the finish line
- We will ask swimmers and kayakers to handle their equipment at the finish line
- We may cancel our After-Party
- We will have minimal facilities at Gilbert Park. The park may be closed to spectators.

We caution anyone planning to do The Swim to consider these matters. This is not be a good year for non-open water swimmers, or those who have no experience in the Great South Bay, or those with vulnerable medical conditions.

Please follow this site and our FaceBook page frequently. We will post updates as we move forward. Thanks!

■ March 6, 2021