



MATSU EVENTS STATEMENT REGARDING COVID-19 AND PUBLIC GATHERINGS

The State of Alaska is open for business. However, small businesses, particularly those involved in hospitality, tourism, retail, and food service, have been hit particularly hard by closures and restrictions. We have received countless requests from businesses and others to hold the Mat-Su Outdoorsman Show as usual in the spring of 2021. Our intent is to hold the Outdoorsman Show for the benefit of these small businesses and for the benefit of the Alaskan public that is hungry for safe interaction with these businesses. The Menard Center has been the traditional home of the Mat-Su Outdoorsman Show, however that building is not currently available due to policies of the Wasilla City administration. We will instead be holding the Outdoorsman Show at Raven Hall at the Alaska State Fairgrounds the weekend of April 9th, 10th & 11th.

We recognize that COVID is real and that it can be a serious disease. Many of us have already had it, and others will get it. Most certainly, everyone in Alaska either has been, or will be, exposed to the virus at some point. We are reminded of the virus by a continual barrage of media announcements from the press, from the internet, from various government agencies, and from healthcare professionals. Everyone is aware of recommendations for personal safety. Of course, the ultimate responsibility for health safety rests on every individual. After nearly a year of constant daily reminders of the importance of personal responsibility, we are putting our faith in the willingness of all show participants, vendors and visitors alike, to use common sense and to exercise personal responsibility. If people are sick, or if they have reason to believe that they have recently been exposed to the virus, we expect them to stay home. If someone has concern for their own health, or for the health of those they live with, we expect them to stay home as well. We are asking folks to maintain respectful distancing between themselves and others while attending the show. Face coverings will be available free of charge for anyone wanting one, and hand sanitizing stations will be available throughout the venue. However, MATSU Events will not be mandating personal behavior.

At this point, all systems are "GO," and the show is scheduled to proceed as promised. The only reason the show would conceivably be cancelled is if:

- 1) There is a marked increase in public health concern to the point that it causes too many vendors to cancel,
- 2) It becomes obvious that the general public becomes unwilling to attend the event due to perceived health concerns, or
- 3) The venue is closed by the State Fairground organization, by government mandate, or for any other reason beyond our control.

MATSU Events is assuming all risk of show advertising, promotion, and preparations. Rest assured that should it become necessary to cancel prior to the show dates, all vendor fees will be promptly returned. If you, as a vendor, find you are unable to attend the show due to COVID or COVID exposure, booth fees will, of course, be refunded in full.

In the meantime, stay safe, and we look forward to seeing you in April!