



The impact of COVID-19 on the Take A Peak Convention

As you are likely aware, the COVID-19 (corona) virus has become a major health concern worldwide and several global health organizations have concentrated their efforts on limiting or slowing transmission of the virus. Because of the physical contact inherent in the activity of square dancing, event organizers within our community are faced with making difficult decisions about whether to cancel upcoming dances. The Take A Peak Convention is closely monitoring this public health situation and we will keep you informed as relevant information becomes available.

Everybody wants more information about the coronavirus. We, too, wish we had more details so we could make an informed decision now about the 2020 IAGSDC Convention. At the present time, we believe that it is too early to consider canceling the event and are moving forward with planning a fantastic weekend in Denver. That said, we are in ongoing discussions about the impact a cancellation would have on our attendees, callers, and vendors.

We want to assure you that our decision-making process is based on the following values and goals:

- The health and safety of our attendees is and will remain paramount.
- We are working in earnest to provide a safe, fun, friendly, and memorable

convention in the tradition of the 36 IAGSDC Conventions that preceded us.

- We understand that attending Convention requires significant energy, time, and financial commitment for every single dancer.
- Decisions regarding how to proceed with Convention in light of developing news about the coronavirus will be made jointly between Take a Peak organizers and the IAGSDC Executive Board.

How does this affect attendees and potential attendees in the near future?

- Instead of going ahead with a previously scheduled registration increase this month, **we are keeping the current registration price of \$265 through April 15, 2020.** We hope that this will provide more time for those of you who have not yet registered to make an informed decision about traveling to Denver in July.
- There have been no changes to our existing cancellation policy, but we are working on contingency plans in the event that the Convention must be canceled for the safety of our attendees. If this does occur, please know that we will do everything we can to provide fair compensation to everyone who has registered.

As you can probably imagine, our incredible committee members, who have dedicated the past four years of their lives to this endeavor, are grappling with some serious conversations while also continuing their efforts to make the 37th annual IAGSDC convention the best one yet. Additionally, we have seen other square dance events cancelled and know that these decisions have not been made lightly. We appreciate both all of the work that our friends and family have put towards these events, and their attention to the health and safety of our vibrant community. Please be patient with us as we gather information and make decisions that prioritize the best outcome for the IAGSDC. If you have any questions, you're always welcome to reach us at takeapeak2020@gmail.com.

For more information about the COVID-19 virus, please consult the following websites:

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) at

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

- World Health Organization (WHO) at

<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>

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