



2021 UEC Mountain Bike Marathon European Championships (XCM) & Raid Evolénard

**Evolène - Valais - Switzerland
19 - 20 June 2021**

COVID Protection Plan

(v_3.2)



1. INTRODUCTION

This document describes the COVID-19 protection plan for all the activities taking place during the Raid Evolénard, a popular race which is hosting the European Marathon Mountain Bike Championships this year.

This COVID-19 protection concept follows the current recommendations of the medical authorities of the canton of Valais and of Swiss-Cycling. It will be updated in accordance with any new guidelines defined by the authorities. Each revision of the COVID-19 protection concept will be approved by the respective authorities (cantonal authorities and Swiss-Cycling) in order to organise competitions in a safe environment.

This concept is designed to cover the three phases of the event (assembly, competition days and dismantling), the different competitions and the groups of people.

In terms of different competitions, we distinguish the elite races (men/women) and Masters races in the context of the European Championships Marathon MTB on Sunday and the amateur and kids races on Saturday. The COVID protocol covers the following groups of people: Athletes and their teams, the organising Committee, UEC, staff, volunteers, press and guests.

Based on historical participation in the Raid Evolénard and the European Championships, we estimate the number of people involved as follows:

	Athletes, teams	Organization	Press	Guests	Total
Elite races	600	250	50	50	950
Master Courses	300	0	0	0	300
Total Sunday	900	250	50	50	1250
Popular races	600	200	0	0	800
Children's races	400	50	0	0	450
Total Saturday	1000	250	0	0	1250

The COVID-19 security concept aims to ensure the safety of all those involved in the event.

2. CURRENT SITUATION

As of 7 June, reflecting the COVID measures of the various authorities:

Elite races	The current measures allow the organisation of European Championships according to the protocol detailed in this document.
Master Courses	The current measures allow the organisation of European Championships according to the protocol detailed in this document.
Popular races	The organisation of popular races is permitted with a maximum participation of 50 people per start
Children's races	The organisation of children's races is permitted.

3. GENERAL MEASURES AND INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITY

The health requirements for epidemiological prevention have been issued by the Federal Office of Public Health (FOPH), the Federal Office of Sports (BASPO) and Swiss Olympic, and apply to all competitions.

The concept of protection is based on individual responsibility to reduce the risk of transmission of acute respiratory infection. The basic principles of the rules for preventing the transmission of infection are as follows

- Wash hands regularly with soap and water, or disinfectant, for at least 30 seconds;
- Avoid touching the eyes, nose or mouth with the hands;
- Sneezing or coughing into the elbow;
- Respect the safety distance of at least 1.5m;
- The mask must be worn, even if the social distance of 1.5m is respected;
- Stay home if you have symptoms of COVID-19 or flu-like symptoms;
- Registration on the "SwissCovid" application is highly recommended;
- Vaccination against COVID strongly recommended

The detailed guidelines are available via the following links:

- [FOPH](#)

Federal Council eases coronavirus measures 26.05.2021

Stabilisation phase begins on 31 May. Now applicable:

 Reopened:  Restaurants and bars  Spas and thermal baths	 Easing of restrictions for private gatherings Indoors: up to 30 people Outdoors: up to 50 people	
 Easing of restrictions for events  In general up to 50 people	 Public attendance (sports and cultural events), religious services  Indoors: up to 100 people and 1/2 of venue capacity  Outdoors: up to 300 people and 1/2 of venue capacity	
 Easing of restrictions for sports and cultural activities Up to 50 people at amateur sports and cultural events. Public allowed at matches.	 No capacity restrictions for face-to-face teaching Prerequisite: approved testing plan. Applies for higher and adult education institutions	
 Quarantine no longer required for those vaccinated Applies for contact and travel quarantine	 Easing of requirement to work from home Working from home a recommendation rather than requirement for companies that test regularly	
Still applicable:  Closed: clubs and discos	 Large-scale events banned (except pilot events)	 Recommendation: Get yourself tested!

 Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
 Confédération suisse
 Confederazione Svizzera
 Confederaziun svizra
 Swiss Confederation

Bundesrat
 Conseil fédéral
 Consiglio federale
 Cussegl federal
 Federal Council

- [BASPO](#)
- [SwissOlympic](#)

4. STRUCTURE OF THE SECURITY CONCEPT

The protection concept of the Raid Evolénard is composed of the following axes:

- Limit access to the race and facilitate the tracing of possible positive cases by implementing a strict **accreditation system**;
- Manage the risk of contamination by requiring a **negative COVID test less than 72 hours** before arrival at the race site or a certificate of vaccination for the red group. When arrival at the event site is more than 72 hours before the event, an advance accreditation can be carried out at the Evolène region tourism offices.
- **Limit contact between people** by grouping people (by colour), limiting access to and traffic flows in arrival and departure areas;
- Ensure **effective communication** to facilitate immediate intervention when a positive case would be discovered;

- Implement **specific measures related to the nature of a mountain bike competition**;
- **Make** all actors **responsible for** respecting the safety concept

4.1 ACCREDITATIONS

Access to the arrival and departure sites of the Raid Evolénard will be strictly controlled and will only be possible for accredited persons. Each person wishing to receive accreditation must register and sign the COVID protection plan. There are 2 accreditation centres: the Evolène Gym for the red group and the Evolène Région Tourisme premises for the yellow group (and for pre-accreditation of the red group the days before the event).

An accreditation can be given for one of five groups:

Red	All athletes running on Sunday and those in direct contact with them. More specifically, this includes athletes, coaches, support staff and mechanics.
Blue	All persons active in the organisation of the Raid Evolénard, in the start/finish area or at other locations during the competition: volunteers, race officials, external suppliers.
Yellow	All members of the media such as producers, journalists, TV and radio commentators, photographers and technicians.
Green	All persons attending the competition as special guests, i.e., VIPs and sponsors.
Brown	Athletes running on Saturday and people in direct contact with them. More specifically, athletes, parents, coaches, mechanics, accompanying persons. One accreditation (maximum) will be allocated per child.

Accreditations are distributed as follows:

- Red accreditations, numbered from 1 to 1000 ;
- Blue accreditations, numbered from 1001 to 1250 ;
- Yellow accreditations, numbered 1301 to 1350;
- Green accreditations, numbered 1401 to 1450 ;
- Brown accreditations, numbered from 2001 to 3000

If the demand for accreditations exceeds the number of accreditations that can be distributed, the task force will decide on the allocation of accreditations.

These different coloured accreditations are intended to:

- Identify who has access to the different competition sites (in particular start, finish and feed zones) and when;
- Group people together to limit interactions;

Non-accredited persons

Any **non-accredited person** will not have access to the finish and start areas of the competition.

The Organising Committee will put in place the following measures to avoid groupings of more than 50 people:

1. In the risk zones, i.e. the start zone, the finish zone and the crossing of the village, microphones will be used to remind people to keep their distance and that groups of more than 50 people are forbidden. Posters reminding these measures and the obligation to wear a mask will be displayed in these areas.
2. As the race takes place on public roads and paths, access will not be closed, but the volunteers present on the 78km of the course will make any walkers aware of the ban on grouping more than 50 people and of the need to maintain distances.
3. The only exception to this rule is the immediate departure area, since it is a conventional "mass" departure

4.2 HYGIENE AND SAFETY ON THE SITE

Only healthy, symptom-free people are allowed on the competition site.

The most common symptoms are: fever, cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, loss of taste and smell.

5.2.1 Hygiene and protective measures

The protective measures of the Confederation and the Canton of Valais are applied by all persons present. Sufficient disinfectants will be provided and placed at strategic points of passage. All contact surfaces will be regularly disinfected.

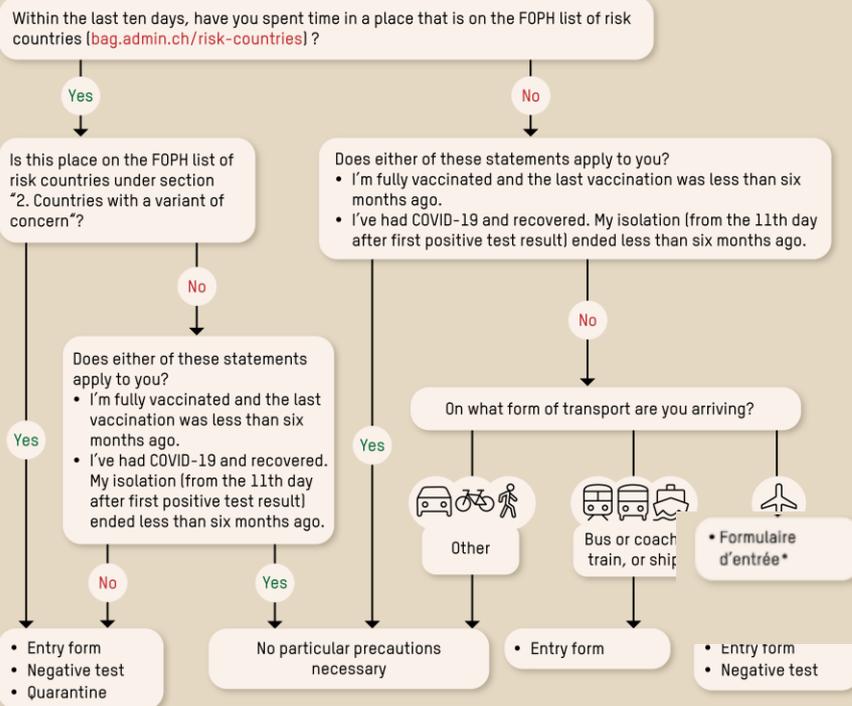
5.2.2 Protective masks

Athletes must maintain their masks when entering the start area. They will be allowed to remove it one minute before the start of their respective race and during the warm-up periods in small groups in accordance with the current guidelines. At the finish of the race, the organisation will give a mask to each participant over 12 years of age so that they can leave the finish area safely. The Organising Committee will provide sufficient masks in reserve.

5.2.3 Testing for COVID-19

Coronavirus: Entering Switzerland

Notice for foreign nationals: It is possible that you are not allowed to enter Switzerland. You will find information on the website of the State Secretariat for Migration SEM at sem.admin.ch/risk-countries. The overview of health-related measures at the border does not tell you whether or not you are allowed to enter.



Read the detailed rules: this is a simplified overview. There are exemptions and rules that are not shown. You can find information at bag.admin.ch/entry.

The organisation will reinforce the measures put in place by the government regarding entry into Switzerland, detailed on the [government website](#) and visible above.

Athletes and their teams in the red group only are exempt from quarantine because they are travelling for an important work-related reason that cannot be postponed.

Testing of the red and yellow group

All athletes and accompanying persons on Sunday and media representatives will be required to present a negative PCR or antigen test (< 72 hours) at the time of accreditation. People who can present a full vaccination certificate will be exempted from testing.

The COVID-19 application form and a copy of the certificate provided will be kept for a period of 14 days by the COVID-19 officer before being destroyed. In the event of a cluster occurring within two weeks of the event, the documents will be kept for a longer period for possible legal purposes.

If these conditions are not met, accreditation will not be issued.

Testing of the blue, brown and green group

All adults in the blue, brown and green group are encouraged to take a self-test before coming to the event, but there is no obligation to take the test.

The COVID measures applied ensure that there will never be a grouping of more than 50 people in each group and that there will be no mixing between groups. To ensure the security of the event, each person must still be accredited and leave their details (name, first name, address, telephone number) to allow for contact tracing. These details will be kept for 14 days by the COVID-19 manager before being destroyed. In the event of a cluster occurring within two weeks of the event, the documents will be kept for a prolonged period for possible legal purposes. Outside these conditions, accreditation will not be issued.

Screening centres

Screening centres closer to the race venue are in

Screening centre of the Sion Hospital

Avenue du Grand-Champsec 80, 1951 Sion

<https://www.hopitalduvalais.ch/fr/coronavirus-covid-19-informations/depistage-covid-19.html>

Screening centre of the Valère Polyclinic

Avenue de la Gare 27, 1950 Sion

<https://www.cliniquevalere.ch/policlinique/>

Drive-in of the SYNLAB Laboratory in Conthey

Rue des Industries 11, 1964 Conthey

<https://booking.mysynlab.ch/fr/drive-in-vs>

A complete list can be checked at <https://www.onedoc.ch/en/covid-testing-center/sion>.

The costs of the tests are to be borne by the person being tested.

4.3 CONTACT LIMITATIONS

Limiting contact is one of the most effective measures to limit the spread of the virus. The following measures help to limit contact:

- Limiting contact between groups/colours
- Limitations on access to the start/finish/...
- Encourage limited contact around participants in relation to accommodation
- Closing of changing rooms, staff/participant catering and other common areas;
- Adjustment of the award ceremony.

Specifically for accommodation:

The accommodation in the Val d'Hérens is made up of small hotels (most of which have between 20 and 30 places) and individual chalets, which in themselves help to limit pre- and post-race contacts.

The general [GastroSuisse](#) protection concept applies in the accommodation.

For the award ceremony :

The award ceremony takes place exclusively in the finish area. The participants are limited to the athletes, a representative of the UEC, a representative of the Organising Committee, a host, a hostess and a child (winner of the "awarding of medals" competition or we choose a child who can hand over the medals to the winners). The prize-giving ceremony will take place as soon as possible after the third runner has finished. All persons present at the prize-giving ceremony (aged > 12 years) must wear a mask.

Follow-up of close contacts

All athletes, crew, volunteers and assistants must give their contact details to the organiser to enable follow-up contact. Athletes and their crews do this at the same time as the accreditation for the race. Volunteer contacts are made by the volunteer manager. All contacts will be shared with the COVID-19 officer Kris Broekaert only and will be kept for 14 days. In the event of a positive COVID-19 case within two weeks of the event, these contacts will be shared with the health authorities and possibly a related company to allow for rapid transmission of information and immediate quarantine.

Catering for staff/ catering

On the Raid Evolénard site, catering options will be limited to "take-away" options. The organisation will provide outdoor seating and will ensure that the rules of social distancing are respected. Also, a meal will be provided for volunteers with the obligation to eat in isolation. For the other people present, apart from the refreshments, there will be no feeding area in the finish area. The general protection concept of [GastroSuisse](#) applies.

4.4 CONTACT POINTS AND COMMUNICATION

4.4.1 COVID-19 attendant

The Organising Committee has appointed an official sponsor for COVID-19, whose tasks are as follows

- Interface with municipal, cantonal and federal authorities;
- Contact person for the teams ;
- Responsible for contact tracing and the application of the applicable framework conditions;
- Accompanying the teams from the moment they enter the competition site and making contact with the Swiss-Cycling, UCI and UEC executives;

The COVID-19 officer can be contacted daily between 7:00 and 22:00 by the cantonal authorities until at least 14 days after the end of the event. The official COVID-19 officer is also a member of the task force to ensure the flow of information.

Contact details of the COVID-19 Officer :

Kris Broekaert

krisbroekaert@hotmail.com

+41 79 571 83 15

4.4.2 Task Force COVID-19

The COVID-19 plan for the Raid Evolénard was developed in consultation with :

- Organising Committee COVID-19 Officer: Kris Broekaert
- The COVID cell of the canton of Valais
- The COVID unit of Health Promotion Valais
- UEC representative: Vladimirov Petsas
- Race doctor: Pernet Manuel
- Representatives of the Organising Committee: Florian Chevrier

These representatives will be contacted and informed when changes to the COVID plan are necessary. This version of the COVID plan has received a positive opinion from the COVID cell of the Canton of Valais.

4.4.3 Behaviour in case of symptoms

Upon accreditation, each person accredited to the event is encouraged to install the SWISSCOVID application in order to ensure accurate traceability of close contacts of all accredited persons. Close contact is defined as prolonged (> 15 minutes) or repeated contact when the social distance of 1.5m is not respected without protective measures.

Each accredited person should take the following steps when symptoms of COVID are observed:

1. Accredited person with symptoms
↓
2. The person concerned should immediately go into self-isolation and announce to his/her team leader or line manager
↓
3. Announcement to the COVID-19 attendant who determines with the race doctor whether a COVID-19 test should be performed. If the test is negative, the person can return to their group.
↓
4. In case of a positive test, the Task Force informs the cantonal authorities (cantonal doctor). The cantonal authorities and the Task Force decide on the next steps (test, departure, quarantine,...).
↓
5. The officer is responsible for implementing the directives of the cantonal authorities. The information must be validated by the Task Force before being transmitted to third parties (media, ...)

4.4.4 Information dissemination

In all areas where there is a risk of grouping (entrances and exits of zones, etc.), information panels concerning safety instructions are put up. In addition, the announcer will regularly remind participants of the safety measures.

4.5 SPECIFIC MEASURE RELATED TO MOUNTAIN BIKE COMPETITION

Starting area

For the European Championship races (Sunday)

For this type of competition, a mass start is essential. At the start, a group of more than 50 people is inevitable.

Despite this grouping, we minimize this risk by :

1. Excluding non-essential persons from the start area (including staff without a start number)
2. Asking athletes to keep the mask on until one minute before the start;

The start of the race will be placed outside the village to limit interaction and facilitate the creation of spacious waiting areas for the runners.

For the popular races (Saturday)

The start of the race will be placed outside the village to limit interaction and facilitate the creation of spacious waiting areas for the runners.

The popular races will take place in groups of 50 people. When registering, each participant is asked to estimate their average speed for the race. Based on this information, the organisation will create groups of maximum 50 people and organise staggered starts every 5 minutes. The fastest participants will start first and then avoid passing each other on the course and interaction between runners as much as possible.

At the start, separate areas allow the participants to be welcomed and depart without contact between different groups. Only one minute before the start, the athletes can remove their masks before the start of their race.

For children's races

The Raid Evolénard organises races for children born in 2001 or later. For the youngest athletes, accompanying persons will be necessary (<14 years). To ensure that no more than 50 people gather at the start, the Organising Committee will organise waiting areas where 50 young athletes and their accompanying person can wait before the start (in case there are more than 50 young people in a category). For children who do not belong to a group of 50 children with an accompanying person, one volunteer per group of 50 children will be provided before the race until the start, then he/she will

collect the children at the finish and call the parents in succession to allow a staggered return of the children.

Press centre and press conference

The press centre is only accessible to the "YELLOW" group of people, on presentation of the accreditation card. Workstations will be spaced at least 1.5m apart. Surface disinfection equipment will be provided to allow disinfection of the workstations on arrival and departure.

Only athletes, UEC and Organising Committee media officers will be admitted to the press conference and press centre. Masks must be worn during interviews and the press conference.

VIP event for guests of the European Championships

A small group of guests (major sponsors and government representatives (Swiss-cycling, UCI, UEC, Valais government) are invited to come and watch the event. This group (green group) of less than 50 people travels in a bubble without close contact with other groups and specifically the riders.

4.6 LIABILITY

All participants adhere to the protection concept in a spirit of solidarity and with a high degree of personal responsibility!

The Organising Committee is responsible for implementing and monitoring the measures prescribed during the event. The COVID-19 officer is responsible for ensuring that these measures are respected.

All attendees must sign a declaration that the protection concept has been read and understood, before receiving their accreditation.

All participants in the event are obliged to implement the prescribed measures consistently and to report any symptoms of illness occurring during the event or within 14 days of the event to the COVID-19 officer immediately.

The operators of external facilities/operations are responsible for the framework conditions and protection concepts of their facilities/operations.