

## **Folklore Village Board of Directors Statement Concerning the COVID-19 Pandemic**

**Folklore Village values, above all else, the health and well being of our community.** With the emergence and spread of COVID-19 we are all making adjustments to our day-to-day lives as well as our extracurricular activities and programming. We should all prepare for the possibility of events being cancelled or postponed. **The Board and staff are actively monitoring this volatile and dynamic situation through CDC, WHO, and Wisconsin Department of Health Services advisories and will be reviewing the local status of the pandemic on a daily basis for the foreseeable future. We will keep all of you informed as we decide which activities to hold and which to cancel.**

In all cases, we are urging our community members to follow recommended best practices for protecting one's self during this health emergency. **Washing hands carefully is crucial—please** follow recommended guidelines on this. If one attends any event where touching hands is part of the activity (as in a dance), we strongly recommend cleaning hands between dances. If food service is a part of the event, washing hands is likewise an absolute must. **If you are feeling even the slightest bit ill prior to an event, we urge you, for your own sake and for those around you, to take care of yourself at home until your symptoms have resolved.** Likewise, if you have traveled to an area where the virus is known to exist or you know you have been in contact with someone who has or is suspected of having the virus, please refrain from attending any participatory activity.

**If you register or have already registered for an event and we decide we must cancel, you can expect a full refund upon request.**

As you may imagine, Folklore Village incurs expenses every time we hold an event that we cannot recover if we are forced to cancel. We must also continue to maintain our buildings and employee salaries even during down-times. **In these unprecedented and extraordinary circumstances, we will reach out to you, our community, and ask for donations to help defray such expenses.** Currently, many individuals in dance communities across the country whose events have been cancelled due to the pandemic are donating back part or all of their registrations/fees to help cover operational costs incurred and to support the artists for whom these cancellations result in a significant lost income. All donations to Folklore Village are tax deductible. Please consider donating so we can hold these events again in the future.

**Centers for Disease Control:** <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

**Wisconsin Department of Health Services:** <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/disease/covid-19.htm>

**Dane County Public Health:** <https://www.publichealthmdc.com/health-services/partners-providers/resources-by-disease/coronavirus>