

We are currently dealing with an unprecedented situation globally due to the spread of COVID-19. To speak about the severity of the situation, all OCA events and most brevets in France have been cancelled or rescheduled until later in the year.

One of the [current recommendations](#) to slow the spread is to keep a distance of 2 meters between yourself and others to prevent coming in contact with “respiratory droplets” that we create when we speak, cough, or sneeze. This is easy to imagine when you’re standing near someone, but riding a bike changes the situation. You can be riding 2m behind someone and still get hit by spray from their water bottle, for example.

This doesn’t pose a risk to a self-supported solo rider. As such, we are implementing the following changes to the season:

- All group populaires are cancelled, but individual permanents are still available.
- Individual permanents may be scheduled with [your Chapter VP](#).
- Completed permanents can be submitted to each ride organizer through “photo controls.” Snap a picture of yourself at the controls and submit it via email to the ride organizer.
- Practice “social distance” throughout the ride, and pack your own snacks instead of entering local shops. ([Rene Herse](#) and [Bicycling](#) both provide some inspiration.)

If you have any questions regarding these changes, please contact [your Chapter VP](#).

In regards to our 2020 brevets and fleche, the Board will continue to monitor the situation and announce a decision in early April. The schedule may change from how it looked at the beginning of the year, but we’re hopeful that many of our ACP rides can be rescheduled as needed.

We still expect members to follow the guidelines of the local health and civil authorities during their rides. That has never changed.

Stay safe,

Martin Cooper, on behalf of the board
Randonneurs Ontario