



PRPS Therapeutic Recreation Institute (TRI) Postponed until September 9-11, 2020

March 16, 2020

As the emerging public health crisis has heightened dramatically in recent days, we have made the tough decision to postpone April's Therapeutic Recreation Institute (TRI) that was scheduled for April 22-24, 2020. We have postponed the TRI until September 9-11, 2020, at the same location.

Not only do we need to contribute what we can to mitigate the unprecedented spread of the COVID-19 virus, as responsible professionals, with many of us employed in fields that service clients who may be at high risk, we must at times choose what's both difficult and right.

In response to the viral threat, we had developed a Contingencies Plan for our annual conference (was scheduled for March 17-20) that outlines various parameters, thresholds, and a framework in which to determine a responsible and appropriate collective response to different levels of impacts. We have also used this plan to assist in our decision making to postpone the TRI.

The events of this last week have brought a high number of restrictions on travel, schools, attendance, and large gatherings. Governor Wolf encouraged all unnecessary travel for all state employees and has effectively closed Montgomery County to all but necessary activities. It is evident that we have reached a tipping point. The situation is hugely disappointing, but unfortunately largely out of our control. Postponing is a shame, but also provides everyone with a feasible alternative that can meet the expectations of all.

What now?

1. Transfer Registration. You can choose to transfer your registration to the rescheduled TRI this fall. Along with the location, we hope to retain many of the same presenters and sessions for this event. The TRI has been rescheduled to September 10-11 with the pre-conference session to be held on September 9. Participants can use all of their funds for registration for the new event.

2. Registration Refunds. For those who cannot make the new dates and need a registration refund, PRPS will grant it in full. Because of the volume of registrations for this event and the annual conference, please have patience as we process refunds and receipts.

To submit your choice, follow the link to a simple form, or call 814-234-4272:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2020TRI>

3. Lodging Refunds. We have talked with the good people at Wyndham Gardens, and they request that guests also consider transferring their room deposits. If you cannot transfer your deposit, the Wyndham can provide a refund. Please call Registrations at 1-814- 466-2255 to retrieve them.

Obviously, we suddenly have a whole new set of tasks, questions, and challenges. And we will work them out. Your understanding and support in this difficult choice are gratefully appreciated!

In your service,

Dan Hendey
Education Manager