



February 10, 2021

Dear friends of the Penn-Mar Irish Festival,

We missed you last year!!

Our committee has been holding out hope that Covid would be under control by now. During our Zoom meetings over the past few months, we've had several frank discussions while considering guidance from the International Festivals and Events Association and input from musicians, vendors, sponsors and stakeholders, volunteers, and other event planners (locally and across the country).

Given all of the uncertainty surrounding vaccine rollout, newly spreading variants, and travel restrictions, and the importance of continuing to physically distance, we have sadly come to the conclusion that it is not feasible to go forward with this year's festival. Safety must be the top concern for our performers, vendors, volunteers, and attendees, along with what is best for the longevity of our event.

We have always prided ourselves on presenting a high-quality festival that is affordable for vendors and attendees. The scenario of producing a festival this year with decreased vendor participation, travel restrictions affecting some of our performers, and reduced gate revenue and sponsorship, plus the added logistics, manpower, and expenses of incorporating the necessary CDC-recommended protocols, would cause irreparable harm to our organization. We are conserving our resources to return stronger in 2022 when it should be safer to gather in crowds.

Please know that we are extremely disappointed. Our hearts go out to all of the vendors and musicians who have dealt with such unfortunate circumstances over the past year. This is not a decision we made lightly but believe it is the correct decision for the future longevity of the festival and the safety of all involved.

Please mark your calendars for our 2022 Penn-Mar Irish Festival on Saturday, June 18, 2022. All performers booked for 2020/2021 have been confirmed for 2022.

We encourage everyone to please support our musicians and vendors – you can find links on our website. They have all suffered a significant loss of income due to so many canceled events over the past 11 months and continuing into this year.

We sincerely appreciate your loyalty and support over the years and your understanding. If you received complimentary tickets in 2019 through any of our contests or via donations to fundraisers you attended, they will be honored in 2022.

More importantly, please continue to follow CDC guidelines so that we can all enjoy live Irish music and dance in person again. Take care and stay safe.