

April 23, 2021

Emerald Isle Irish Festival Statement Concerning the 2021 Féile

It is with sorrow that the Emerald Isle Irish Festival planning committee announces that the 2021 Féile is cancelled. The difficult decision to cancel is based on the current state guidance for live events and the continued uncertainty about the pandemic.

The information surrounding COVID-19 changes on a daily basis. While the state is on the way to opening up business and events, it is still unclear what capacity parameters will be in effect in September. The committee realizes that it would not be possible to proceed with plans for a Féile that in any way resembles the successful inaugural event of 2019. Of primary concern in the decision-making was the health and safety of our community and its visitors.

Since the venues used for the Féile are fairly small and were filled to capacity in 2019, it seemed risky to host the event this year. Additionally, hosting a successful festival involves significant upfront planning and logistics with attendees, vendors, and entertainers. So, it is important that we make this decision now due to the countless details and months of planning required to produce the Emerald Isle Irish Festival.

The committee has set September 8, 9 and 10, 2022 as dates for the next Emerald Isle Irish Festival. Plans are already underway to seek out quality local, state and national artists for the event. It is also expected that Beaver Island will be honored in 2022 by the attendance of many visitors from our sister Island, Arranmore, Ireland.

The committee will continue to monitor state and local restrictions, health guidelines and capacity limits to determine what type of events will be permissible in the future and we will plan accordingly going forward. The planning committee would like to thank the many patrons and sponsors who made the inaugural festival such a success and we look forward to planning for an even greater event in 2022.