

March 15th, 2020

Due to public health concerns over COVID-19, many conferences scheduled in the early part of 2020 have decided to postpone their physical logistics until at least the later part of 2020.

The Boston DevOps organizers are first and foremost committed to the safety of the community and event attendees. Since this year the event is scheduled for September 28-29 2020, the organizers feel, as of our March 15th team meeting, that there is sufficient runway (or so we hope) for public health concerns to resolve before the event.

Key Criteria for Postponing a Physical Event in 2020

Reports of North American cities imposing bans on public gatherings varying from 10 - 50 people also follow with a current worst-case length of 6 months. This conservatively places our physical event within a likely safe zone. Notwithstanding this position, the organizers have agreed to the following postponement criteria:

1. Concrete, official municipal statements issued which ban events occurring beyond Sept 15th
2. Federal or Massachusetts travel bans that apply to the September schedule and jeopardize speaker/sponsor logistics
3. Unanticipated withdrawal of 2020 event sponsorships

If DevOpsDays Boston is postponed from its September date, it will likely be rescheduled to the first quarter of 2021, as delaying any further significantly impacts the following year's lead-up logistics. An outright cancellation is highly unlikely, but if so, all attendees and sponsors will be issued an option to be refunded or roll their involvement into the usual late-2021 event.

Organizers Are Following COVID-19 Trends Closely

The DevOpsDays Boston organizing committee now meets weekly, with approximately 6 months to go before the physical event. Each week we assess information relevant to the above criteria and take appropriate action to proactively communicate to the community and event constituents any change in status or logistics of the event. This cadence has begun as of March 15th 2020.

Other DevOpsDays events in Baltimore, Columbus, Philadelphia, and Vancouver, Toronto and Salt Lake City are cancelling outright, seeking to reschedule for the early part of 2021. Still other locations such as Atlanta, Austin, Chicago, Houston, Madrid, Sao Paulo, and Portugal have either successfully completed their event in early March or are still scheduled for later in 2020.

The Bottom Line

The DevOpsDays Boston organizing committee will continue to proactively communicate status and decisions taken regarding a September 2020 event to all its constituents. As of March 15th, an event on September 28-29 is still on track to happen.