



**National
Multiple Sclerosis
Society**

April 7, 2023

Attn: Town officials of Edgartown, Oak Bluffs, Tisbury, West Tisbury, Chilmark, and Aquinnah

On behalf of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society (NMSS), Greater New England Market and Martha's Vineyard Boys & Girls Club (MVBGC) I would like to extend our gratitude for the continuous support and cooperation the towns of Dukes County has shown for the NMSS's annual Bike MS event. The funds raised from this event will continue to be used to advance the NMSS's support of national research and to support local programming for the more than 27,000 people within Greater New England who are affected by multiple sclerosis.

The 2023 Bike MS: Ride the Vineyard event is scheduled to take place on Saturday, April 29. We anticipate that we will have around 415 participants for this event that will start and finish at Martha's Vineyard Regional High School. Our cyclists will be passing through Edgartown, Oak Bluffs, Tisbury, West Tisbury, Chilmark, and Aquinnah on Saturday between 9:00 a.m. and 3 p.m. as they take part in one of our route options: 18mi, 25mi or 60mi. I have included written riding directions for your review, and we will thoroughly mark the route and make arrangements to have police details where appropriate.

Our routes feature safety stops every 8-12 miles, so that our cyclists remain hydrated and nourished. All cyclists agree to follow the rules of the road and are directed to ride single file – we do not ask for road closures, and this is not a race. We issue one warning to cyclists not following the rules of the road. On the next infraction, we pull them from the ride and require they ride to the finish in one of our route support vehicles.

We mark our route with small coroplast signs attached to utility poles or stakes. A volunteer will follow the route on the day of the ride and remove all signs after the final cyclist has passed.

We operate a support team consisting of medical personnel, bicycle mechanics, and amateur (HAM) radio operators. Our lead HAM radio operator monitors all emergency radio frequencies, so that we can close or redirect our route should that become necessary.

We respectfully ask permission from the towns of Edgartown, Oak Bluffs, Tisbury, West Tisbury, Chilmark, and Aquinnah to use town roads for this event. If we can have your permission, please sign, and return the Event Form enclosed here to me. If there are any other additional steps, permits or permissions I must take to ensure approval for this event, please let me know.

We thank you in advance for your support and please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Meghan Burke

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