

Out of an abundance of caution and keeping the safety of our faithful bears and their supporters at the forefront of all decision making, we regret to inform you that the City of Rehoboth Beach has cancelled the 2026 Lewes Polar Bear Plunge and 5K Run to the Plunge.

Rehoboth Beach is navigating significant challenges because of the snowstorm. At present, the boardwalk and all beach crossings remain snow covered, and many sidewalks throughout downtown Rehoboth are as well.

Parking is always tight, but the snow has amplified the issue. The lack of parking and safe walkways has created an infrastructure that cannot safely support the more than 20,000 polar bears and spectators expected on Sunday.

Please know the Plunge will not be rescheduled this year. The following will still take place –

Friday, February 27

4:00 – 7:00 pm Plunge and 5K Run to the Plunge packet pick up and Souvenir Sales at the Rehoboth Beach Convention Center

Saturday, February 28

12:00 – 2:00 pm Fire & Ice in the Atlantic Sands Ballroom

2:30 – 5:00 pm Restaurant Chili Contest

4:00 – 7:00 pm Plunge and 5K Run to the Plunge packet pick up and Souvenir Sales at the Rehoboth Beach Convention Center

NOTE: For those of you who will not be picking up in Rehoboth Beach Friday or Saturday, please know that we will schedule future packet pick up opportunities in Newark.

We encourage you to pick up your hoodie and incentives and then plan to participate in a Virtual Plunge. Whether it's water balloons, jumping in the snow, a bucket of icy water, or something uniquely creative, you can still be part of the celebration from anywhere. Gather your team or go solo, just be sure to share your photos and videos so we can celebrate with you.

We are as disappointed as you, but your safety is paramount and we look forward to coming together to plunge in 2027. We thank you in advance for your understanding.