

Covid Protocol for 2022 GFM National Staff Conference

Before the conference:

Testing:

- Everyone is strongly encouraged to take a rapid test before departing for the conference. People with a high level of potential exposure are asked to consider taking a PCR test. If the test is not covered by an individual's health insurance, the cost may be expensed to the staff member's account.

Don't attend if you:

- Have covid within 10 days of the conference.
- Are not fully vaccinated and have close contact with someone who is covid+ within 10 days before traveling. A "Close contact" is defined by the CDC as being unmasked and within 6 feet for more than 15 minutes over a 24-hour time period.
(<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/contact-tracing/contact-tracing-plan/appendix.html#contact>)
- Questions about specific situations can be directed to Jill Etherington (jill.etherington@intervarsity.org.)

Consider not attending if you:

- Are fully vaccinated and have close contact with someone with covid within 10 days before travel begins. (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/quarantine-isolation.html>)

Vaccination Information:

- We will collect vaccination information during online registration. This information will be kept confidential.
- An update on the % of attendees who are fully vaccinated will be available on February 21 to anyone who requests it from Lorrey. Participants are considered "fully vaccinated" two weeks after receiving their first dose of the J&J vaccine or second dose of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine. (The CDC recommends that anyone over age 12 also receive a booster.)
- Attendees will be notified when they arrive at the conference of the percentage of attendees who are fully vaccinated.

Cancellations:

- If someone has registered to attend the conference in-person and expensed their flight to the conference account, then needs to cancel, they will not be billed the full conference cost (\$725 for the main meeting, including travel.)
- The cost of their flight will be billed to their staff account. The staff member should use the flight credit for a future InterVarsity trip.
- Contact Lorrey Thabet (lorrey.thabet@intervarsity.org) to let her know about the change in plans.

Covid Protocol for 2022 GFM National Staff Conference

Transportation:

Driving:

- If you live within 6 hours of the conference, please consider driving. This year we are asking staff to drive themselves (not carpool) or carpool with a smaller number of fellow staff when possible.
- If you choose to carpool, agree on a plan for what you will do if one of you develops covid during the conference. If three staff live in an area, consider coming in two cars so if one person gets sick, they can quarantine on the trip home.
- Staff driving to the conference will be asked to provide transportation between the airport and conference center for 2 other attendees due to the rental car shortage & to reduce the use of uber.

Flying:

- Attendees will be transported between the airport and conference center (a 75-minute drive) in cars with 3-4 people total. Where possible we will use larger vehicles. People will be masked in the cars and may choose to open a window to increase ventilation.

At the Conference:

General information:

- We will be the only group on the grounds.
- Participants will monitor daily for covid symptoms.
- Outdoor fire-pits & activities are available. Other outdoor eating options are not.
- No Childcare will be provided this year

Colored lanyards:

- When staff arrive at the conference, they will select a colored lanyard that matches their preferences for social distancing. For example, a green lanyard may indicate someone is open to hugs, and a red one that someone is not. Details will be specified prior to the conference.

Masking

- Masks will be worn in all public spaces, including plenary sessions, workshops, small groups, hallways, and when not eating or drinking in the dining hall.

Housing:

- Staff will have single rooms unless they prefer to room with someone specific, such as a spouse.

Testing:

- Rapid tests will be available onsite. Transportation to the local hospital for a PCR test can be arranged.

Covid Protocol for 2022 GFM National Staff Conference

When someone develops covid or has close contact with a person who develops covid onsite:

- The sick person will quarantine in their room.
- A designated person will deliver their meals.
- If their quarantine time is not complete by the end of the conference:
 - if they flew, they will be driven to a hotel near the airport to finish their quarantine.
 - If they drove, they can either drive home or stay at a hotel depending on the severity of their symptoms.
 - The additional costs to complete quarantine will not be covered by the conference.
- Unvaccinated staff whose exposure meets the current guidelines for close contact (See above) will be asked to self-quarantine until the end of the conference.
- Vaccinated staff who are in close contact with someone who develops covid at the conference will have the option to quarantine and will be asked to take a covid test and self-monitor for symptoms.

Dining:

- Attendees will use the handwashing station before going through the buffet line.
- Those serving food will be masked and wearing gloves.
- Chairs will be arranged to allow enough space for social distancing.
- Tables may be designated as green / red tables (matching the lanyard colors) so people can easily find others with similar distancing preferences. Attendees may wish to eat meals with the same group to form a conference “meal pod.”
- Meal Meetings: A maximum of 6 people will be seated at each table.
- Masks will be worn unless actively eating or drinking. Under Health Department regulations, attendees may only eat in the dining hall unless they are quarantining in their room due to illness. Outdoor eating is not available.

Plenary Sessions:

- Seating will be arranged to allow for social distancing.
- Masks will be worn. Speakers and worship leaders who are 6+ feet from the attendees may remove their masks.
- During worship, participants will remain masked and be encouraged to spread out throughout the room.
- Hand Sanitizing stations will be available.