



Protocol For COVID-19 Safety

The purpose of this The World Games 2022 Protocol for Participant COVID-19 Safety (**TWG Protocol**) is to help prevent the spread of SARS-CoV-2 and COVID-19 (**COVID-19**) during The World Games 2022 and avoid serious disease for all participating athletes, officials, staff, and related personnel (**Participants**). Concurrent with the primary goal of safety, this TWG Protocol seeks to balance protection against COVID-19, while avoiding unnecessary operational disruptions, including to competition schedules and gameplay. This TWG Protocol is fundamentally informed by and derived from guidance issued by the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services' Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (**CDC**). Given the evolving nature of scientific consensus and understanding of COVID-19, and thereby the CDC's guidance, this TWG Protocol is subject to change and may be modified from time to time, including through the completion of The World Games 2022.

The guidance in this Protocol is intended to supplement, not replace, any applicable federal, state, or local health and safety laws or regulations, which are subject to change, outside to control of The World Games 2022 organisers, and will apply and be followed for the duration of The World Games 2022.

1. *Vaccination*

- All Participants are **required** to be fully vaccinated with the primary series of an accepted COVID-19 vaccine, subject only to religious or medical exemptions. At this time, while this TWG Protocol permits religious or medical exemptions, the United States requires all non-US citizens or non-US immigrants, to be fully vaccinated with the primary series of an accepted COVID-19 vaccine prior to travel to the United States by plane. Below are links outlining what constitutes an acceptable vaccine and being fully vaccinated, as well as the forms for claiming either a religious or medical exemption to the vaccine requirement.
 - [Acceptable Vaccines](#)
 - [Fully Vaccinated Definition](#)
 - [Religious Exemption Form](#)
 - [Medical Exemption Form](#)
- As noted in the preamble, state or local rules will apply, including for access to all facilities in which The World Games 2022 will take place. At present neither the City of Birmingham nor the State of Alabama has vaccination requirements with certain exceptions, such as for workers in healthcare facilities.

2. *Testing, Screening, and COVID-19 Surveillance*

- **Onsite Testing Services:** TWG2022 has contracted with a local, high-quality healthcare provider who will conduct laboratory COVID-19 testing for Participants. This testing will occur via stations located in each Athlete Village location (UAB and BSC), as well as at the Sheraton Hotel. The exact location of testing stations will be provided prior to Participant arrival. Testing will be available daily, and hours of operation will be adjusted and clearly communicated based on the demand and local community transmission at the time of the games. Individuals who test positive through the contractor's medical testing system will receive an email or text message, with important information about isolation protocols.
- **Asymptomatic Testing:** There is no current requirement for asymptomatic testing, but all Participants are asked to promptly report symptoms and submit to testing, if they have symptoms of COVID 19, including but not limited to fever.
- **Symptomatic Testing:** Participants with COVID-19 symptoms, regardless of vaccination status, will be immediately isolated and tested. The individual will not be allowed to return to work, training, or competition until a negative test result is returned. It is the stated goal of the organizers of The World Games 2022 to ensure that Participants will be offered an antigen test, which will provide the most rapid test results. There will be no charge for this testing.
- **Testing and Quarantine of Exposed Persons:** Participants who are fully vaccinated who have experienced a close contact exposure will not be asked to self-quarantine and will be allowed to continue to work, train, or compete. Participants who are unvaccinated who have experienced a close contact exposure will not be allowed to work, train, or compete and will be asked to self-quarantine for 5 days from the date of the exposure. Regardless of their vaccination status, Participants who have had a close contact exposure with someone known or suspected of having COVID-19 will be tested upon request, at the expense of the individual.
- **Testing for Departure from Birmingham:** For the Participants whose country of residence requires a negative test for re-entry, the organizers of The World Games 2022 will ensure access to testing prior to departure. It is incumbent upon each Participant requiring such testing to request it. The fee for testing will be \$100 per test. Testing turnaround times for PCR test are project to be 24 hours or less and turnaround times for antigen testing is approximately 20 minutes.

3. *Isolation, Quarantine, and Contact Tracing*

- [Current CDC guidelines](#) will be followed for Participants who test positive.
- **Positive test notification:** Individuals who test positive through the testing system described herein will receive an email or text message with important information about isolation protocols. This notification will also be sent to the Local Organizing Committee's Chief Operating Officer and Medical Co-Chairs, as well as the IWGA Medical Chair.

Individuals who test positive through external testing mechanisms are required to report positive test results to Local Organizing Committee Officials and will be expected to following local isolation protocols (see below).

- **Isolation Protocols:** Based on current CDC guidelines, individuals who test positive will be asked to isolate for a minimum of 5 days from symptom onset and can return to routine activities on day 6, at the earliest, if all symptoms are resolved. However, asymptomatic individuals who return to routine activities prior to day 11 from symptom onset must continue to wear a well-fitting mask on days 6–10.
- **Contact Tracing:** The Local Organizing Committee will provide a contact tracer who will attempt to identify any close contact exposures of Participants who are covid positive and notify such contacts, as soon as practicable in order to prevent further exposure.
- **Treatment of COVID positive athletes, officials, and staff:** The testing contractor will screen Participants who test positive for their eligibility to receive antiviral medications (currently Paxlovid) prescribing this medication when appropriate, which medication can be obtained in local pharmacies at the individual's expense. There is no obligation on any Participant to accept such medication, and the medication would only be prescribed with the Participant's consent. Participants requiring further or different treatment will be evaluated by the contractor and recommendations for treatments will be made to Participants who will have the option to accept or reject such recommendations. Participants with more exigent needs will be referred to local Urgent Care Clinics or Emergency Departments at the individual's expense.
- **Housing of COVID positive:** Participants who are housed in the Athlete Villages and test positive will be isolated in COVID-positive housing at the Athlete Villages.

4. *Masking*

As noted in the preamble, state or local rules will apply, including for access to indoor facilities. At present neither the City of Birmingham nor the State of Alabama has in place masking requirements with certain exceptions such as in healthcare facilities. Local public health recommendations (Jefferson County Department of Health) will be followed, if community transmission levels change. However, if local rules do not require indoor masking (as they do not currently) and COVID-19 conditions are favourable regarding local community transmission (as they are presently), TWG2022 will not require masking.

- Masks will be offered at all housing entry ways for Participants staying within the Athlete Villages.

Conclusion

This TWG Protocol offers up to date recommendations based on CDC and other scientific guidance. It seeks to balance COVID-19 safety with TWG2022 operational needs. It is likely that this guidance, or the implementation of the guidance, will change as COVID-19 conditions change and in accordance with ongoing scientific evidence, guidelines, and local restrictions. The TWG Protocol stresses keeping athletes and officials safe, avoiding serious disease and hospitalization, rather than focusing on preventing all instances of SARS-CoV-2 transmission.