

HVTN/CoVPN Full Group Meeting COVID-19-related Policies, Spring 2023

Vaccination

We recommend that all in-person HVTN Full Group Meeting attendees (guests, speakers, staff) are fully vaccinated for COVID-19 with all appropriate boosters.

For the purposes of this guidance, people are considered fully vaccinated for COVID-19*:

- Two weeks or more after they have received the second dose in a 2-dose series (Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna)
- Two weeks or more after they have received a single-dose vaccine (Johnson and Johnson [J&J]/Janssen)
- Two weeks after receipt of another complete vaccine regimen authorized by the World Health Organization (WHO)

*A booster is strongly recommended but not required at this time.

Attendees who cannot or do not wish to comply with the meeting policy are welcome to join virtually.

Masking

We recommend that attendees wear a paper surgical mask when not eating or drinking.

Daily Testing

There will be NO daily testing requirement. The HVTN registration team will have a small number of rapid tests on-hand should you feel ill and need to test.

Additional Requirements

Before the Full Group Meeting

Follow current guidance provided by the US Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and your local health authority. Do not attend FGM in person if you are experiencing, or within the 10 days prior to FGM have experienced, symptoms consistent with COVID-19. If you do not feel well, protect yourself and others and stay home. You should not attend if you believe that you may have been exposed to a confirmed or suspected case of COVID-19, or have been diagnosed with COVID-19 within 5 days prior to the meeting. **If you have been diagnosed with COVID-19 within two weeks of the FGM, please contact HVTN Travel (vtn.travel@hvtn.org) to receive clearance to attend.**

Follow travel restrictions and guidance issued by the region you are traveling to and from.

In-Person Experience

To help ensure your personal safety and comfort, the HVTN/CoVPN has asked the hotel to sanitize all facilities at appropriate intervals and to provide readily available cleaning materials on site.

We are committed to clear COVID-19-related health and safety communication during the event. We encourage all conference participants to monitor our meeting website for the latest updates.

Follow guidance from the US CDC and local health authorities to minimize the spread of viruses. The steps that you should take include:

- Wash your hands regularly and thoroughly for at least 20 seconds each time.
- Sanitize hands regularly throughout the day.
- Properly use masks (paper surgical, N95 or KF94) in all meeting spaces at all events.

- Maintain appropriate physical distance from others and comply with all distancing arranged by conference organizers; do not move furniture or change room arrangements.
- Isolate in your hotel room and alert conference staff if you feel unwell or start experiencing symptoms consistent with possible COVID-19. Conference staff can work with you to determine and implement next steps.
- The HVTN is committed to providing all necessary equipment to assist in following these guidelines (eg, hand sanitizer stations, signage, event reminders)

Advise the conference organizers if your return travel to a destination outside of the US, after the FGM, requires proof of a negative test result prior to travel. The conference organizers can help facilitate convenient testing options for meeting attendees who live outside the US.

After the Meeting

If you test positive for COVID-19 up to 14 days after your departure from the FGM, please contact HVTN Travel immediately at ytn.travel@hvtn.org.

Adapted from <https://www.planning.org/conference/covid-policy/> and <https://www.sxsw.com/covid19-guidelines/>