

MR 2022 COVID Policies

- (1) **Before the MR 2022 workshop** - It is California policy that “**No matter your vaccination status, wear a mask while on public transportation or in a transportation hub.**” Be intentional about following this directive in transit to MR 2022; this applies to all attendees and their guests. It is **strongly recommended** that you and everyone in your travel party get tested for COVID upon your arrival, before attending the MR 2022 workshop. If you bring your own COVID self-test kit, note airline and federal policies, and also be vigilant about the temperature requirements for the self-tests to give reliable results, noting that checked airplane luggage is not stored in a climate controlled setting. From the FAA site - “Unused COVID-19 test kits do not contain dangerous goods and are typically allowed in both carry-on and checked baggage. COVID-19 test kits containing diagnostic samples (e.g., nasal swabs and vials of sputum) are not allowed in carry-on baggage. These samples must be properly packaged, handled, and identified as a [UN3373 Category B Infectious Substance](#) (PDF) during transportation. Passengers should check with their carrier before packing COVID-19 test kits containing diagnostic samples in checked baggage or shipping as cargo. Individual carriers and international requirements may be more restrictive than domestic regulations.” Other options for testing include purchasing a self-test (there is a drug store, Walgreens, two blocks from the workshop site) or doing a test administered by a third party. “Virus Geeks” does COVID testing on site at the Portola hotel where the workshop will be; please do a search for them online for insurance coverage and payments (it is not free). **If you test positive for COVID or show any symptoms, do not attend the workshop and instead see #5 below.**
- (2) **Masking during MR 2022 functions** - **all meeting participants must wear a mask for all indoor workshop functions with the exception of while eating or drinking, and oral presentation speakers may choose to remove their mask during their presentation.** [Surgical masks or higher-level respirators (e.g., N95s, KN95s, KF94s) with good fit are recommended over cloth masks.] The only exceptions to the masking requirement are described at <https://covid19.ca.gov/masks-and-ppe/>. **Masks are optional in outdoor settings, including on the excursion.** Food served at breakfast and the morning/afternoon breaks will be able to be packed to go if any participant does not want to eat in the indoor area set aside for the workshop.
- (3) **On social distancing** - Please do your part to maintain proper social distancing whenever possible. Please note that even if you feel comfortable not social distancing, the people you interact with at the workshop may not have the same comfort level. Please assume all other workshop participants prefer to follow social distancing standards.

- (4) **Masking during functions not part of the workshop** - When not at workshop functions (such as off-site meals or other gatherings), participants are required to at least follow the guidelines of the state of California (<https://www.co.monterey.ca.us/government/departments-a-h/health/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov/health-officer-shelter-in-place-order>). Currently, **the state of California strongly recommends using a mask in indoor settings.**
- (5) **If you show any symptoms of COVID or test positive for COVID** - Due to the ease with which current strains of COVID are spread, the health of all participants at MR 2022 requires that every individual proactively isolates and quarantines if experiencing any symptoms consistent with COVID (<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/Updated-COVID-19-Testing-Guidance.aspx>). The quicker COVID is identified, the less risk there is of spreading it to others. The hotel staff and MR 2022 organizers can help you get medication, sustenance, and COVID tests while you are isolating and recovering, but are not health professionals so you should contact your healthcare provider about available treatments if symptoms are severe or if you are at high risk for serious disease. If guests traveling with you show symptoms of COVID, you are expected to isolate to avoid passing it to other meeting participants. The following are rules for the isolation period:
- Isolate for at least 5 days after start of symptoms (or after date of first positive test if no symptoms). Isolation can end after day 5 if symptoms are not present or are resolving and a diagnostic specimen collected on Day 5 or later tests negative. If unable to test, choosing not to test, or testing positive on Day 5 (or later), isolation can end after Day 10 if fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications. If fever is present, isolation should be continued until 24 hours after fever resolves. If symptoms, other than fever, are not resolving, continue to isolate until symptoms are resolving or until after Day 10. Infected persons must wear a well-fitting mask around others for a total of 10 days, especially in indoor settings.