

**The following is FAI-wide Covid policy as of March 2022, as we prepare to restart in-person events. Policy may be updated due to public health requirements, developing best practices, and emerging community expectations for safe gathering.**

The proposal includes specific minimum standards for all FAI events, that allow each event to tailor to their region's public health needs, outlooks, as well as place reasonable expectations on the organizer teams to carry out these requirements. We welcome organizer teams to set more rigorous standards as they deem necessary for their event.

We also acknowledge that a significant part of a successful COVID health strategy lies not only in rules, but in design for community use that promotes safety in subtle, yet powerful, ways. We are providing specific areas that we recommend our teams focus on in their event design plans.

These suggestions maximize airflow potential, avoid crowding, work to create paths of least resistance, and social norms that proactively promote community health.

## **Covid Gate Requirements**

Every FAI event should set a minimum standard for gate entry that meets the following standard:

- **Up to date vaccination record**  
OR
- **Receipt of negative test within 72 Hours of event**

We considered the possibility of at-home rapid tests working as an acceptable substitute for a vaccination card or 72 hour negative test receipt. We found that is not the event standard that has emerged nationally, and it creates potential complications to implement.

In addition, entry will require signature of a waiver as described later in this document.

## **Covid Gate Recommendation**

FAI recommends that events use a forehead/touchless thermometer to ensure that attendees are not showing early symptoms of Covid. Before admitting an attendee, we recommend:

- Gate check the temperature of each entrant
- Temperatures over 100 degrees can be re-checked for temperature error, and re-checked a second time after a 15 minute cooldown period to ensure the reading is indicative of elevated body temperature

- Individuals with raised temperature should not enter the event, and return to the gate with a receipt of a new rapid covid test.
- Gate should be prepared with contact information and location to nearest rapid testing options

We acknowledge the added gate responsibilities that come with this recommendation, and will leave the decision on implementation to the GM and Directors of each event. Organizers should consider onsite feasibility and current area infection rates when making their decision. Events are strongly recommended to set gate hours to help gate staff approach these measures in a workable way.

If an event decides to implement a gate temperature check, FAI will cover the cost of a touchless gate thermometer.

### **Covid Ticketing Policy**

A certain number of tickets were held by purchasers through the pandemic cancellations. Multiple offers for reimbursement were made for all tickets, and per last-call reimbursement agreement, no more reimbursements will be made for old tickets.

- Tickets held through prior cancellations are valid, per gate requirements
- New tickets sold are non-refundable
- Gate Requirements (*see above*) will be prominently communicated to all ticket holders and new ticket sales. Explicit communication will set expectations well before interactions at the gate.
- Ticket resale option via Eventbrite prominently communicated for any current ticket holders who do not agree to gate requirements.
- Tickets will be valid for the rescheduled/next event if:
  - Event is canceled due to area outbreak
  - Attendee provides electronic receipt of positive covid test within 2 weeks of event

### **Covid Waiver Requirement**

The Covid-specific waiver will be in addition to the traditional event waivers, to bring specific attention to the new agreement and expectations.

- FAI will provide a standard COVID waiver that events can add to if needed.

- The waiver will act as an agreement of personal risk and community responsibility, outlining symptoms and a plan of action if a person shows symptoms.
- The waiver will include agreement assigning responsibility to any individual who has an onsite positive Covid test to leave the event premises. They will be responsible for confirming their status and notifying public health authorities as appropriate.
- Example waiver:  
<https://www.cancer.org/about-us/policies/covid-19-safety-acknowledgement.html>

## **FAI Policy Requirements**

It is FAI policy to follow, at minimum, all public health requirements for each locality, as well as any site-specific requirements.

- All Local and State Requirements
- Site Owner Requirements

In addition, First Aid must be supplied with rapid Covid tests in the event that attendees show any symptoms.

- FAI will provide small event stipend to guarantee a minimum of 5-10 emergency tests at each event
- Event must make arrangements to keep Covid tests at appropriate temperature to prevent spoilage.
- Events should have a forehead/no-touch thermometer available at the medical booth.

If a positive test occurs onsite:

- If an attendee has a positive rapid Covid test, they must leave the event.
- General Managers must be informed of positive test and disseminate relevant information to attendees (i.e. that there has been a positive test onsite) while taking care to protect the privacy of any individuals who have tested positive.
- Per the Covid waiver, attendee must appropriately confirm and report their positive status to local health authorities.

## **Per Event Policy Suggestions**

The following are suggestions that can be tailored to each event's needs, area outlook, and organizer abilities. The suggestions de-emphasize enforcement mechanisms that tax organizers and create unrealistic expectations. They do emphasize outreach, persuasion, and design choices that avoid scenarios that make transmission of airborne disease more likely.

- Regular mentions of policy changes and new policies on social media and email
- Create spacing suggestions and signage where lines form (for instance, flags or markers as a social distancing reminder)
- Galas and shows should be outdoors
- No indoor classes or events
- Minimize indoor sleeping/gathering areas for instructors and organizers
  - Emphasis on local instructors who are likely to have or easily borrow camping gear.
- Expand audience area for fire circle and any shows/ceremonies to encourage distancing
- Encourage masks for gatherings/ceremonies/galas
  - In particular, encourage organizers to model responsible masking behavior
- Hand washing stations
- Consider fire breathing policies including designated fire breathing areas
  - This is also beneficial to reduce lamp oil mist from being breathed by individuals who are in the vicinity of fire breathing
- Consider temporarily de-emphasizing fire breathing and fire eating workshops and activities as skills which are higher risk for lung damage
- Locate and promote local resources for post-event contact tracing

## **Calendar Checkpoints for Public Health**

Regular check-ins by GM and Director teams will ensure that event organizers are informed and engaged with local caseloads, outlooks, and developments. Putting check-ins on the calendar guarantees that events won't be surprised by event-area health developments.

- GM and directors should discuss and confirm event status at regular intervals.
- Suggested review 3 month, 2 month, 1 month, and 2 week period before the event.
- Events should take into consideration ICU rates, new COVID case rates for that area, and local health guidelines.
- ICU checker <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/us/covid-hospitals-near-you.html>
- New cases checker <https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/country/us/>

*This document will be updated as public health outlook, best practices, and community expectations evolve. We strive to protect and respect the communities we serve. If you have questions or comments, please feel free to contact us at [flowartsinstitute@gmail.com](mailto:flowartsinstitute@gmail.com)*