



The World Games
2022 BIRMINGHAM, USA

Protocol For COVID-19 Safety

The purpose of this The World Games 2022 Protocol For COVID-19 Safety (**TWG Protocol**) is to help prevent spread of COVID-19 and avoid serious disease for all athletes, officials, staff, and related personnel. These draft recommendations represent the current scientific consensus, using a layered approach. The TWG Protocol seeks to balance protection against COVID-19 while avoiding unnecessary operational disruptions, including to competition schedules and gameplay.

The guidance in this Protocol is intended to supplement, not replace, any applicable federal state or local health and safety laws or regulations.

1. *Vaccination*

- All domestic/international athletes and sport officials/staff with accommodations at the Athlete Villages are **required** to be fully vaccinated with the primary series of an accepted COVID-19 vaccine. At this time, 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. All domestic athletes will also be required to be fully vaccinated. All participants traveling by means other than air travel, will be required to show proof of vaccination as well as proof of a negative COVID test result within 48 hours of their arrival to receive their accreditation.
 - [Acceptable Vaccines](#)
 - [Fully Vaccinated Definition](#)
- State or local rules apply for access to all facilities. At present neither Birmingham nor Alabama has in place 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 contractor who will provide laboratory testing services for COVID-19 to athletes and officials. These testing stations will be established in each Athlete Village location (UAB and BSC) as well as at the Sheraton Hotel. Exact location of testing stations is to be determined and will be provided prior to athlete arrival. Testing will be available daily and hours will be adjusted and clearly communicated based on 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.

- **Arrival Testing:** It is required that all TWG2022 participants should receive a laboratory-based viral test before their arrival in TWG2022. Proof of a negative COVID-19 test result (antigen detection or PCR) within 48 hours before arrival provides some assurance that athletes and officials are not infected when they begin their training. In addition [international travellers](#) are currently required to test negative for COVID-19 or provide proof of recent recovery from COVID-19 [prior to travel to the US](#). Participants who tested positive for COVID-19 within 90 days prior to their arrival should *not* test prior to arrival. It is advised that individuals do not take a PCR test until 90 days after testing positive for COVID-19, as it may return a positive result although the individual is no longer contagious. Documentation of positive test within 90 days will be required in lieu of a current negative COVID 19 test. All participants traveling by means other than air travel, will be required to show proof of vaccination as well as proof of a negative COVID test result within 48 hours of their arrival to receive their accreditation.
- **Asymptomatic Testing:** There is no current requirement for asymptomatic testing, but all participants are asked to promptly report symptoms and to take and submit to testing if they have symptoms of COVID 19, including, but not limited to fever.
- **Symptomatic Testing:** Individuals with COVID-19 symptoms, regardless of vaccination status, should 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. In general, most symptomatic athletes, officials, and staff who present to the testing site will be offered an antigen test to ensure rapid test results. There will be no charge for this test.
- **Testing and Quarantine of Exposed Persons:** Individuals 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. Individuals 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, people 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, TWG 2022 will ensure that all participants have access to testing prior to departing Birmingham. The fee for testing will be \$100 per test. Testing turnaround times for PCR will be 24 hours or less and turnaround times for antigen testing is 20 minutes.

3. **Isolation, Quarantine, and Contact Tracing**

- [Current CDC guidelines](#) will be followed for individuals who test positive
- **Positive test notification:** Individuals who test positive through the TWG2022 contractor's medical testing system will receive an email or text message with important information about isolation protocols. This notification will also be sent to TWG2022 Chief

Operating Officer, TWG Medical Co-Chairs, and the IWGA Medical Chair. Individuals who test positive through external testing mechanisms are required to report positive test results to TWG2022 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. Asymptomatic individuals who return to routine activities prior to day 11 must continue to wear a well-fitting mask on days 6-10.
- **Contact Tracing:** TWG2022 will provide a contact tracer who will attempt to identify any close contact exposures of athletes, officials, and staff who are covid positive and notify them as soon as practically possible in order to prevent other unnecessary exposures.
- **Treatment of COVID positive athletes, officials, and staff:** The TWG Medical testing contractor will screen athletes, officials, and staff who test positive for eligibility for treatment with antiviral medications (currently Paxlovid) and will prescribe this medication, which can be obtained in local pharmacies at the individual's expense. There is no obligation and would only be prescribed with the participant's consent. Individuals who require further treatment will be evaluated by the medical contractor and medications will be provided in a similar manner. Individuals with more extensive needs will be referred to local Urgent Care Clinics or Emergency Departments at the individual's expense.
- **Housing of COVID positive:** Athletes, officials, and staff who are housed in the Athlete Villages and become COVID positive will be cohorted into COVID positive isolation housing at the Athlete Villages.

4. Masking

- Local rules apply for access to indoor facilities. At present neither Birmingham nor Alabama has in place masking requirements with certain exceptions such as in healthcare facilities.
- Masking can be burdensome, so flexibility is warranted depending on COVID-19 conditions in TWG2022 facilities and the local community. If local rules do not require indoor masking and COVID-19 conditions are favourable regarding local community transmission, TWG2022 will not require masking. Local public health recommendations (Jefferson County Department of Health) will be followed if community transmission levels change.
- Masks will be offered at all housing entry ways for athletes and officials 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.