



NAPCRG Health and Safety Policy for Conferences, Events, and Meetings

NAPCRG's priority in all conferences, events and meetings is the safety and welfare of our attendees, exhibitors, partners, and staff. To mitigate risk to attendees at in-person conferences, events and meetings, effective March 7, 2022, the North American Primary Care Research Group (NAPCRG) will require signed agreement attesting (confirming/acknowledging) to the fact that the person attending is fully vaccinated against COVID-19 as this will allow admittance to NAPCRG in-person conferences, events and/or meetings.

NAPCRG will also require attendees upon registration to submit a signed agreement to attend in which they indicate that they are personally responsible for coming prepared (fully vaccinated against COVID as per the existing World Health Organization's recommendations) for a conference, event and/or meeting and will comply with all local, state/province or national policies and mandates, wear masks as appropriate; as well as adhere to any safety requests from the facility and/or the organizers.

Protocol: NAPCRG COVID-19 Conferences, Events and Meetings

This protocol is in addition to local requirements.

This policy is based on guidance and recommendations issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Public Health Agency of Canada, and other public health authorities. The COVID-19 vaccines approved by the FDA for emergency use authorization and the vaccines that the FDA and Health Canada have fully approved have been determined to be critical in reducing the community prevalence of COVID-19.

- All people attending the conference, event and/or meeting must be fully vaccinated against COVID-19.
- All people attending the conference, event and/or meeting must complete an “Attestation (Confirmation/Acknowledgement) Statement” as a part of the registration process.
- Any person not signing the “Attestation (Confirmation/Acknowledgement) Statement” may not register and/or attend the conference and/or event.
- All people attending the conference, event and/or meeting must wear masks during all meetings and activities, as appropriate.
- NAPCRG will be coordinating with facility staff to provide safe physical distancing during all meetings and events, including options for meals and other events with food and beverages, to ensure a safe environment for those in attendance. This may include boxed “to go” meals or options that provide alternate dining choices and dining areas.
- NAPCRG will provide updates from the conference and/or event facilities regarding any change in COVID protocols and/or policies, especially as they conduct other events prior to ours. Complete details regarding the facility’s COVID-19 Safety Protocol can be found at the corresponding facility’s website
- NAPCRG reserves the right to re-schedule or cancel conferences, events and/or meetings to ensure the safety of people attending and staff.

Before Leaving Home:

- Follow relevant guidance provided by the World Health Organization (WHO), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Public Health Agency of Canada and/or your Local Health Authority or Nation.
- Adhere to government-issued travel restrictions and guidance issued by your Local Health Authority or Nation and those of the Region to where you are travelling (location of the conference, event and/or meeting).

- Evaluate your own health and those with whom you are in close contact; contact the conference and/or event organizers if you have concerns.
- Download a COVID Alert App so that you can identify if you are in contact with an individual that is positive for COVID.
- Stay home if you are sick.

During the Conference, Event and/or Meeting:

- Follow guidance from your local health authority for everyday actions to help prevent the spread of respiratory viruses, including:
 - Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, or an alcohol-based sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.
 - Avoiding touching eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
 - Cover your nose and mouth when coughing or sneezing, disposing of used tissues immediately.
 - Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a household cleaning spray or wipe.
- Agree to wear an appropriate mask or facial covering, if required by conference, event, and/or meeting organizers. Three-ply masks will be available at the conference, event and/or meeting venue.
- Adhere to social distancing protocols put in place by the Facility and the Organization; and respect the personal space of others.
- Notify Conference Staff at any time at the Conference Registration Desk if you feel unwell or are experiencing flulike symptoms.
- NAPCRG will not be responsible or liable for costs to quarantine should they be required.

Cleaning procedures

- Shared spaces such as washrooms and toilets will be cleaned regularly by staff. However, all attendees are encouraged to clean after themselves during the conference while still complying with all other public health directives such as handwashing, masking, and social distancing.

Screening, test, and contact tracing

- Health and safety strategies are variable and depending upon the local public health directives, there may be a requirement for daily screening for flu-like symptoms, daily temperature checks and screening for negative COVID tests within 72 hours of arrival to venue.
- Depending upon the local public health directives, if you test positive, contact the Conference Staff and they will let people know that others at the Conference have tested positive and the events that they attended and wherever possible the public spaces occupied at the conference on previous day.
- NAPCRG will not be responsible or liable for costs to quarantine should it be required.

Onsite personal protective equipment

- 3-layer non-medical masks will be provided for those in attendance who may not have brought a mask.
- Hand sanitizer stations will be made available for use and placed at strategic positions in the Conference Hall.
- If possible, please bring some (a box of five) rapid tests with you to the conference, event, or meeting.

Floor plans

- Signages to guide traffic, during the conference, events and/or meetings, will be provided in the Conference Hall to ensure social distance is maintained.

Other Considerations:

Transportation

Depending upon the local public health directives at the time of Conference, buses shuttling between hotels and the Conference Center, the protocol to ensure safety will be followed (e.g., bus capacity (should be 50% capacity), shuttle frequency, public health directives while in buses (masking, social distancing, etc.)).

Contacts

To have a public health contact person who can provide answers COVID-19 related.

Event Planners

Event planners should have COVID-19 documentation with the latest guidance from the CDC, the Public Health Agency of Canada, and the local public health centre provided for all attendees.

**Attendance Requires a COVID-19 Vaccination Signed
Attestation (Confirmation/Acknowledgement) Agreement**

In collaboration with the North American Primary Care Research Group (NAPCRG) Board of Directors and in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, NAPCRG has outlined new requirements associated with attendance at conferences, events, and meetings within the *NAPCRG Health and Safety Policy for Conferences, Events and Meetings for Attendees*.

Furthermore, along with the coordination and implementation of increased health and safety measures at on-site conferences and events, NAPCRG will require all attendees, exhibitors, partners, and staff to be “fully vaccinated against COVID-19” prior to attending. While vaccinations, observance of safety protocols, and exercise of personal discipline may reduce risk, an inherent risk of exposure to COVID-19 does remain a possibility in connection with any public gathering. Accordingly, as a condition of event attendance, please check the box below to indicate your acknowledgement of and agreement to the following:

It is understood that COVID-19 is an extremely contagious disease that can lead to severe illness and death. I attest to (confirm/acknowledge) my or my organization's desire and voluntary choice to travel to and participate in this NAPCRG conference, event and/or meeting. I or my organization assumes responsibility for me and our staff and accepts the risk of being exposed, contracting, and/or spreading COVID-19 to attend the NAPCRG Conference, event and/or meeting. Specifically, I assume all risks and accept sole responsibility for any injury (including, but not limited to, personal injury, illness, disability, and death) that I may experience in connection with attendance, and I hereby waive, release, and hold harmless NAPCRG, and its employees, agents, contractors, and representatives from any claims, liabilities, actions, damages, losses, costs, or expenses of any kind arising out of or relating to our attendance. I agree to follow all instructions and safety precautions posted or provided by NAPCRG, the conference and/or event venue, and/or any governing authority during conference, event and/or meeting (e.g., wearing masks in all meeting areas). It is understood and agreed that my failure to do so may result in me being excluded from the conference, event or meeting without refund, reimbursement, or other remuneration.

NAPCRG will not be held responsible should you be required to quarantine.

[] I have read and agree to the North American Primary Care Research Group’s COVID-19 acknowledgement, waiver, and release and confirm that I am fully vaccinated against COVID-19.

Name: _____

Date: _____

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