



Health Precautions Protocols & Guidelines POD Network Annual Conference

As part of the POD Network's ongoing efforts to make our events inclusive and accessible—and mindful of their impact on our larger communities—we urge all participants in the annual conference to join us in practicing the health safety precautions listed below. POD Network leadership recognizes that traveling from around the world to gather with hundreds of others in confined spaces poses increased health risks that go beyond our typical contexts. And so we're asking members to join us in taking a more vigilant approach than we might in our everyday lives to reduce the risk of spreading Covid and other airborne illnesses while at the conference. Together we can create a safer conference for everyone, including our colleagues (and their loved ones) who are at greater risk of severe health outcomes. Thank you for joining us in cultivating POD Networks's culture of care.

The following outlines health precaution protocols and guidelines in the context of our current risk assessment. We are sharing these protocols and guidelines in advance so that participants can make an informed decision about their safety in attending the annual conference. These guidelines may be updated if significant changes leading up to the conference require us to revise that risk assessment.

Protocols & Guidelines

These precautions are expected of all conference participants but not of other guests staying in the conference hotel. Participants should weigh those factors as they consider their options.

Masking: The POD Network strongly encourages all participants to wear a mask of KN95 quality or better at all times inside the conference venue. Wearing a mask enables more POD members to participate in the annual conference. Masks will be readily available at the conference.

We recognize that masks can sometimes make it difficult to hear, especially during breakout conversations in crowded sessions or for those who depend on lip reading. If you need to remove your mask in order to be understood in a small group discussion, please consider putting your mask back on once that conversation is over.

Vaccination: The POD Network strongly encourages all those for whom vaccination is an option to be up-to-date on their vaccines according to the latest guidance from the CDC.

Testing: The POD Network expects all participants who develop symptoms to test themselves for COVID-19 while at the conference. Tests will be available for symptomatic individuals who need them (contact the [POD Network Office](#) via email for assistance). If you do test positive while at the conference, please adhere to the isolation expectations below.

Meals: The following practices are meant to make it easier for those who prefer to remain masked to participate in programs organized around meals:

- Presentations (such as the Presidential Address) will be scheduled for the start of the meal so that those who would rather eat on their own can choose to leave once the presentation is over.
- Participants are encouraged to remain masked during pre-meal presentations.
- All meals during the conference will be portable for participants who choose to eat in another location.

Isolation expectations: To avoid spreading respiratory viruses to others, we expect anyone who tests positive or develops respiratory symptoms on-site to isolate themselves according to the [CDC's previous guidelines regarding isolation](#). If you do test positive on-site, please contact the [POD Network Office](#) via email so we can help connect you with the support you need.