



## COVID-19 Policy

We want to ensure a safe and comfortable meeting for those who attend in person and reduce the risk of people getting sick, especially the vulnerable in our community. **If you get COVID-19 whilst in Aotearoa New Zealand, you must isolate yourself for seven days** - seeing as many of you are coming from overseas, we want to limit the risk of this happening so you get to enjoy the conference and your time in Aotearoa New Zealand. **The key points are: do not come to the conference if you are sick; wear masks when inside (including buses) during IAVCEI 2023 events; and test for COVID-19 before coming to the conference and before the mid-conference field trips.** More details are below. The policy was last updated 23/01/23.

To help us achieve a safe and comfortable meeting for all, there are a few simple steps we need **you** to follow:

- **Most importantly, do not come to the conference if you are sick or test positive for COVID-19. You must test for Covid-19 if you feel unwell.** If you get COVID-19 whilst in Aotearoa New Zealand, you must isolate yourself for seven days. Day 0 is the day your symptoms started or when you tested positive, whichever came first. We are live streaming all conference sessions so if you feel up to it we can organise remote presentation options for you (email [iavcei2023@confer.nz](mailto:iavcei2023@confer.nz), subject line "COVID-19 switch to remote presenting"). Everyone will receive the access link for the virtual platform in advance of the event.
- **We require masks to be worn indoors during all events held at the IAVCEI 2023 conference venues.** This includes the poster hall, session rooms, plenaries, and workshops. **We also require masks to be worn on field trip transportation and during field trip indoor activities (e.g., marae visits).** Face masks remain an important defence against COVID-19. We are following [New Zealand government guidelines](#) on mask wearing based on the current information. We ask that you bring your own mask but we will have a limited supply available at the registration desk if you forget or lose yours. We highly recommend respirator masks with N95, KN95 or P2 ratings, which are best for high risk indoor environments. The only exceptions to this policy are if you have a mask exemption from a medical practitioner, if you are speaking to someone who lip reads, when you are presenting your talk, and when you are actively eating/drinking or playing sports. Pre- and post-field trip leaders will be in touch regarding mask wearing during their trips.
- **You must test for Covid-19 before you first attend an IAVCEI conference event, and on the Wednesday before the mid-conference field trip.** We also highly encourage you to additionally test before traveling and throughout the week. Rapid Antigen Tests (RATs) are available for purchase from pharmacies. If you are travelling from overseas, you should be collect a free pack of RATs at the airport on arrival in to New Zealand when clearing customs, please keep an eye out for them. You can also order and collect free RATs and masks through the ministry of health [website](#) or bring your own supply with you. There will be a limited supply of RATs at the registration desk. These were kindly donated.



- **Sharing your COVID-19 status.** We want to keep an eye on the COVID-19 situation at the conference and help people make an informed decision about attending in person. We have set-up a quick google form where you can report your RAT results each day you take one. No identifiable information will be collected, and the total numbers of tests taken and positive results reported will be released to attendees daily: [https://bit.ly/Covidreporting\\_IAVCEI](https://bit.ly/Covidreporting_IAVCEI)
- **Get fully vaccinated if you can.** Being vaccinated means you are less likely to get really sick if you catch COVID-19 and less likely to pass it on to others.
- **Practice good hygiene.** While we encourage you to wash your hands often, hand sanitiser will be available throughout the venue and at the registration desk. Cough and sneeze into your elbow and avoid touching your face.
- **Physical distancing.** Please be aware of how close you are to others and give each other space. No handshakes please.
- **Keep informed.** For the most up-to-date information check out <https://covid19.govt.nz/>
- **Be respectful.** Please adhere to the general code of conduct for the conference.

**If you test positive with COVID-19 before, during and after the conference, we do not take responsibility for any costs incurred.** Please ensure you have plan in advance for what you might need to do – ensure you have travel insurance, check their polices around COVID and make sure you have the correct contact details in relation to your travel and accommodation bookings in case you need to change these. Please reach out (email [iavcei2023@confer.nz](mailto:iavcei2023@confer.nz)) if you need any support managing covid while in isolation and we can link you with the right information.

We are also following guidelines in order to make the event as safe and comfortable for everyone. These include:

- Providing free masks at the venue - although supply will be limited, so please try and bring your own.
- Sharing the access link for the virtual platform in advance of the event. So, if you do test positive you can access the virtual conference events.
- Using a very large exhibition and poster space that will allow for you to have space to be distanced from others.
- The venue monitors the air quality and will make adjustments to the ventilation/air conditioning if needed. There will be CO2 monitors in some of the smaller session rooms to allow attendees to assess the situation.
- Opening doors and windows to provide ventilation - where practical.
- For the breaks, there will be space outside the venue but unfortunately it is not covered, and Government Gardens is five minutes from the venue. Please remember to wear sunscreen, the New Zealand sun is very fierce.
- Keeping you updated with all of the above information during the event.
- The Local Organising Committee and Organisers will be working hard to enforce these policies where practically possible and would appreciate your full cooperation in doing so.



These policies were informed by [Te Pūnaha Matatini guidance](#) and from community feedback. Thank you to all of those who contacted us with information. We understand that some of the policies above are inconvenient and could be uncomfortable, but we really appreciate your adherence and support in protecting our community. We are monitoring global trends and government policy on COVID-19 and will update this policy if the situation changes. Please email [iavcei2023@confer.co.nz](mailto:iavcei2023@confer.co.nz), subject line: "COVID-19 Policy", if you have feedback or comments or would like to cancel your registration