

2022 MT Short Course COVID Policy

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In preparation for the upcoming 2022 MT Short Course, IRIS staff have identified steps to maximize the safety and protection for in-person short course participants. Below we outline steps we plan to take during the course.

Recommended COVID Mitigations

1. Only fully vaccinated individuals will be permitted to attend the short course and must submit proof of vaccination prior to travel
 - a. IRIS will contract with a medically-licensed external vendor that will collect, validate, and securely store photos of vaccination cards that participants will need to take and upload via a secure website.
 - b. Participants will then show their personal QR code upon arrival to verify compliance.
2. Short course participants will stay in single-occupancy rooms, rather than double-occupancy rooms (as has been standard practice for past meetings)
3. Masking is highly encouraged for short course participants, and anyone who has symptoms of minor illness (cough, runny nose, etc.) or who has been in close proximity to someone who has recently tested positive for COVID will be required to wear a mask.
4. Participants who test positive for COVID the day before travel should not plan to attend the short course.
5. Participants who become sick and test positive for COVID during the short course will be asked to self-isolate.
6. To the extent possible, participant seating should be arranged with an eye toward maintaining social distancing (e.g. in the conference room, or computer lab)
 - a. Some events, like group dinners, may still require participants to be seated in close proximity
7. On-site rapid test kits will be available at no cost for any participants who feel unwell, have COVID-like symptoms, and/or were exposed to someone else who tested positive.
 - a. To protect against breakthrough infections among our vaccinated participants, these tests should be readily and freely available to encourage their use by anyone who is feeling unwell.