



# COVID-19 FACTSHEETS - GUIDELINES FOR LIVE EVENTS PER COUNTRY

INFORMATION PROVIDED BY THE MEMBERS  
OF THE IAPCO GLOBAL TASKFORCE OF  
NATIONAL PCO ASSOCIATIONS



COMPILED BY IAPCO



# Foreword

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**In June 2020 and for the first time in its 52 years, IAPCO assembled a small group of National PCO Associations from around the globe into a strategic Task Force.**

The objective was to facilitate the communication and dissemination of information related specifically to the impact that the COVID-19 Pandemic was having on the meetings industry.

The Task Force has since grown into a Strategic Global group of 14 National PCO Associations representing companies directly involved in delivering meetings and events.

In September of 2020, the Task Force released The PCO Perspective: “Business events as strategic tools for driving post-pandemic recovery and renewal” in collaboration with Joint Meetings Industry Council (JMIC). This Advocacy Guide is still extremely relevant today as regions around the globe open for business and professional events again. In June 2021, the Task Force brought 5 Tourism Ministers together through a virtual platform to discuss the importance of business and professional events to their cities and regions and to address how government and PCOs can work together to deliver safe and secure events.

IAPCO is now pleased to release this compilation of national / PCO guidelines from the different countries represented in our task force, the latest publication from the Strategic Global Task Force. The contents of this document are a reflection of the current COVID-related protocols and procedures in place within each of the Task Force Members’ destinations, at time of publishing. Together, they help to form an overall picture of the restrictions and opportunities that PCOs and the meetings industry professionals must consider. It also provides direct links to the respective governments’ latest guidelines.

We hope that you find it helpful.

**Alejandro Ramirez Tabche**, Chair of IAPCO National PCO Association Task Force.



## Argentina

Information provided by:



Asociación Argentina de Organizadores y Proveedores de Exposiciones, Congresos, Eventos y de Burós de Convenciones

## National guidelines



### Latest guidelines online

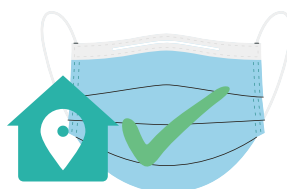
<https://aoca.org.ar/#/-resources-covid-19/>

Through a thorough work with the technical teams of companies and institutions of the sector, following the indications of the Ministry of Health of the Nation and with a continuous exchange with the international associations of which it is part, the main tasks to be developed by the companies, professionals and destinations were outlined so that the return of the events is safe for participants, visitors and work teams.

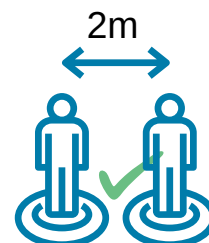
## What are PCOs and venue partners asking attendees to provide/do?



No vaccination or proof of negative test required.



Masks must be worn inside. Speakers can remove their mask when they start presenting.



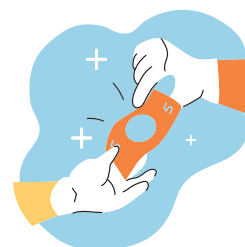
Social distancing is compulsory (2m).



No tests at the entrance are required.

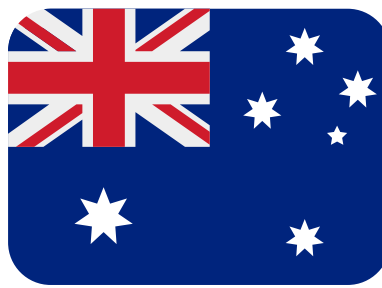


Temperature checks required.



N/A





# Australia

Information provided by:



## Guidelines

Guidelines vary greatly from state to state and situation evolves quickly. Below you will find links to up-to-date resources by state.

### South Australia

Adelaide

SA State Government - [covid-19.sa.gov.au](https://covid-19.sa.gov.au)

Adelaide Convention Bureau - [adelaideconvention.com.au/COVIDSAFE](https://adelaideconvention.com.au/COVIDSAFE)

Adelaide Convention Centre - [adelaidecc.com.au/covid](https://adelaidecc.com.au/covid)

### Queensland

Brisbane,  
The Gold Coast &  
Cairns

QLD State Government - [covid19.qld.gov.au](https://covid19.qld.gov.au)

COVID-Safe Events - [covid19.qld.gov.au](https://covid19.qld.gov.au)

Brisbane Economic Development Agency -  
[choosebrisbane.com.au/covid-19-information](https://choosebrisbane.com.au/covid-19-information)

Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre - [Safe Event Guideline](https://SafeEventGuideline)

Destination Gold Coast - [destinationgoldcoast.com/covid-19](https://destinationgoldcoast.com/covid-19)

Gold Coast Convention & Exhibition Centre - [gccce.com.au](https://gccce.com.au)

Business Events Cairns & Great Barrier Reef -  
[businesseventscairns.org.au](https://businesseventscairns.org.au)

Cairns Convention Centre - [cairnsconvention.com.au](https://cairnsconvention.com.au)

Queensland Government - [Industry Framework COVID safe events](https://IndustryFrameworkCOVIDsafeevents)

### Australian Capital Territory

Canberra

ACT State Government - [covid19.act.gov.au](https://covid19.act.gov.au)

ACT COVID-Safe Event Protocol - [covid19.act.gov.au](https://covid19.act.gov.au)

Canberra Convention Centre - [nccc.com.au/covid-19](https://nccc.com.au/covid-19)

Canberra Convention Bureau - [canberraconvention.com.au](https://canberraconvention.com.au)

### Northern Territory

Darwin, Alice  
Springs &  
Uluru

NT State Government - [coronavirus.nt.gov.au](https://coronavirus.nt.gov.au)

NT Business Events - [tourismnt.com.au/covid-19](https://tourismnt.com.au/covid-19)

Darwin Convention Centre [darwinconvention.com.au](https://darwinconvention.com.au)

### Tasmania

Hobart

TAS State Government - [coronavirus.tas.gov.au](https://coronavirus.tas.gov.au)

COVID-Safe Event Framework - [business.tas.gov.au](https://business.tas.gov.au)

Hobart Convention & Exhibition Centre - [hcecgandchancellor.com](https://hcecgandchancellor.com)

### Victoria

Melbourne

VIC State Government - [coronavirus.vic.gov.au](https://coronavirus.vic.gov.au)

VIC State Government Public Events Framework -  
[coronavirus.vic.gov.au](https://coronavirus.vic.gov.au)

Melbourne Convention Bureau - [melbournecb.com.au/coronavirus](https://melbournecb.com.au/coronavirus)

Melbourne Convention & Exhibition Centre - [mcec.com.au/venuesafe](https://mcec.com.au/venuesafe)

### Western Australia

Perth

WA State Government - [wa.gov.au](https://wa.gov.au)

Business Events Perth - [businesseventspertth.com](https://businesseventspertth.com)

Perth Convention & Exhibition Centre - [pcec.com.au](https://pcec.com.au)

### New South Wales

Sydney

NSW State Government - [nsw.gov.au/covid-19](https://nsw.gov.au/covid-19)

Business Events Sydney - [besydney.com.au](https://besydney.com.au)

ICC Sydney - [Event Safe Operating Guide](https://EventSafeOperatingGuide)

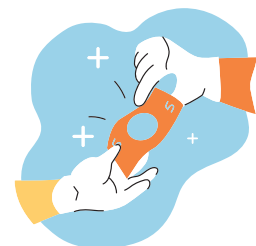
## Common to all states:



No tests at the entrance  
are required.



No temperature checks  
required.



N/A



## Austria

Information provided by:



### National guidelines

Latest guidelines online

[Information in English \(sozialministerium.at\)](https://sozialministerium.at)

Austria requires the so-called 3G proof, which means you need to prove your status as either:

- Vaccinated with one of the vaccines authorised by EMA (valid up to 9 months)
- Cured from a COVID infection (valid for 6 months)
- Tested (antigen (valid for up to 24hrs) or PCR tests (up to 72hrs))



As of 15 Sept the following step-by-step rules apply, measures now no longer depend on the number of infections but on the number of COVID patients in ICUs.

**1st step (current situation):** When 200 ICU beds are occupied: you need to wear an FFP2 mask in shops for everyday supplies (i.e. mainly supermarkets), public transport). Unvaccinated persons are requested to wear FFP2 masks in all shops. Access to events with more than 25 persons only with "3G-proof"

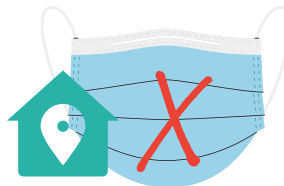
**2nd step:** 7 days after the threshold of 300 ICU beds has been reached, additional measures to the above: for events with no fixed seating and more than 500 persons, tests are no longer valid as a means of access (only recovered or vaccinated persons). Smaller events: as tests, only PCR tests are valid.

**3rd step:** 400 ICU beds: further access restrictions will be issued (not specified)

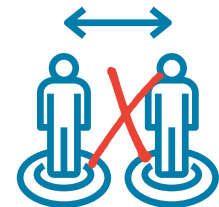
## What are PCOs and venue partners asking attendees to provide/do?



Proof of vaccination /recovery required. Some no longer accept proof of negative test for large events.



No masks required at conferences. It could change as the situation evolves.



Social distancing is not compulsory at events.



No tests at the entrance are required.

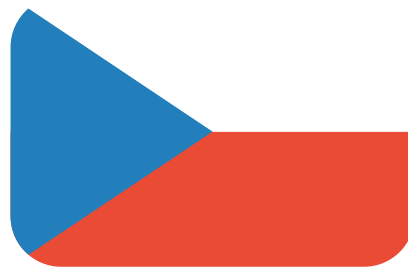


Temperature checks not required.



Costs of testing currently assumed by government.





# Czech Republic

## National guidelines



**Latest guidelines online**

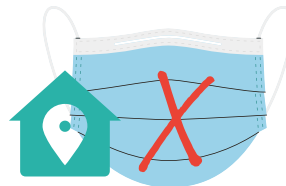
<https://covid.gov.cz/en/measures>

Generally speaking, PCOs are applying these rules. Exceptions are applied at some corporate events, when the client requests to keep their internal corporate measures.

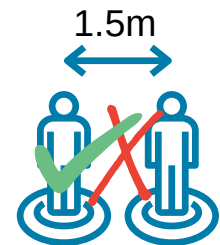
## What are PCOs and venue partners asking attendees to provide/do?



Proof of vaccination  
/recovery / negative test  
required.



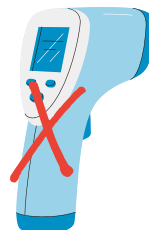
No masks required at  
conferences.



Currently not  
applied, only for  
exceptional cases.



Usually antigen testing is  
available. Decision by  
organiser.



Temperature checks not  
required.



Costs of testing at  
event supported by  
organiser (=client).





# Greece

Information provided by:



## National guidelines



Latest guidelines online:

<https://travel.gov.gr/#/>

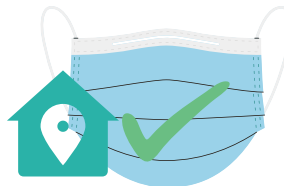


PCO's and Associations are obliged to follow the rules and protocols strictly, as they have been issued by the government officially

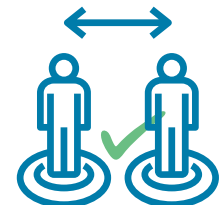
## What are PCOs and venue partners asking attendees to provide/do?



Full vaccination OR recovery certificate (less than 3 months) are required to enter events.



Masks must be worn inside. Mandatory for all, with the exception of speakers during their speech on the condition that the podium has protective glass (plexiglass), which is cleaned and sanitized between the speakers.



Capacity based on the venue, maintaining the appropriate distancing.



No tests at the entrance are required as vaccination is.



Temperature checks may be offered at registration desks.



If a person demonstrates symptoms, that person needs to be isolated in a dedicated room. It is recommended for the person to undergo an antigen-test, which must be available onsite.







# Ireland

Information provided by:



## National guidelines



**Latest guidelines online:**

**<https://covid19.failteireland.ie/operational-guidelines/business-conference-events/>**

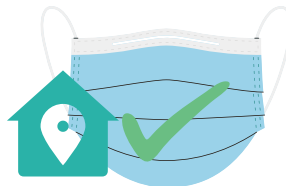
Currently government rules/guidelines are applied. On 22 October, our understanding is that all restrictions are removed and the focus will be on personal responsibility.

AIPCO are considering issuing our own recommendations which may have more guidelines than the government 'personal responsibility' approach.

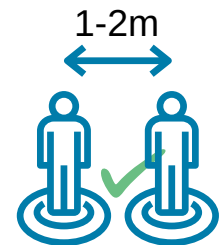
## What are PCOs and venue partners asking attendees to provide/do?



Proof of vaccination/  
negative PCR test  
required (until 22/10).



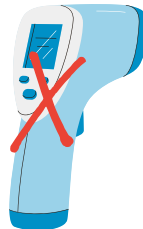
Masks must be worn  
inside (until 22/10).



Social distancing is  
compulsory (1-2m).  
60% capacity (until  
22/10).



No test at the entrance  
are required.



No temperature checks.



N/A







Italy



## National guidelines



**Latest guidelines online**

<http://www.federcongressi.it/index.cfm/it/ms/eventsafety>

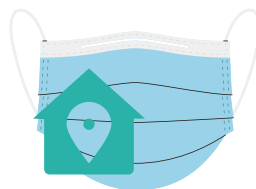


PCOs and associations are applying these guidelines.

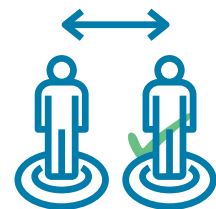
## What are PCOs and venue partners asking attendees to provide/do?



No pass required



Masks are recommended inside but not compulsory



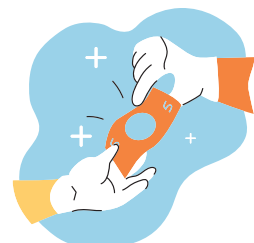
. pax to be assessed after consultation of local authorities.



No test at the entrance



Temperature checks possible but not compulsory.



Costs of testing: attendee.





# Korea

Information provided by:



## National guidelines



### Latest guidelines online:

[Coronavirus Disease-19\(COVID-19\) > Social Distancing > Overview of Social Distancing System \(mohw.go.kr\)](#)

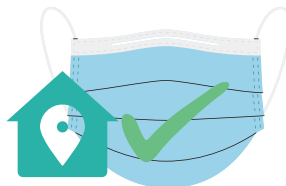


Note: Tourism workers were given priority status for vaccination.

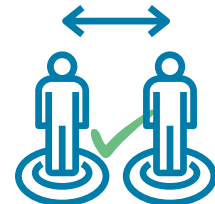
## What are PCOs and venue partners asking attendees to provide/do?



Proof of vaccination or negative PCR test required.



Masks must be worn inside. Staff monitors and can expell non-complying pax (criminal punishment possible).



Level 1: 1 seat empty / 1m between seats.  
Level 2~3: 2 seats empty / 2m between seats.  
Level 4: max. 49 pax



Only for staff at fairs and exhibitions.



Temperature checked twice: first to enter the venue, then at registration desk.  
Mandatory.



Costs of testing:  
government /  
temperature : PCO.



# Mexico

Information provided by:



## National guidelines



Latest guidelines online:

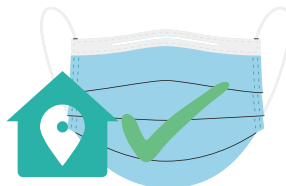
<https://embamex.sre.gob.mx/reinounido/index.php/en/view-more/1776-tourism-guidelines-for-international-visitors-upon-their-arrival-in-mexico>

Mexico has not adopted restrictions for the entry of foreign visitors or Mexicans returning from other countries. Personnel from the Ministry of Health are located at the points of entry to attend to people who have symptoms associated with the coronavirus and take the corresponding measures.

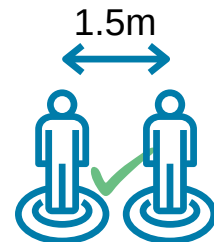
## What are PCOs and venue partners asking attendees to provide/do?



No.



Masks must be worn inside. No more than 4 or 6 people for meals. Security personnel invite people to respect mask wearing.



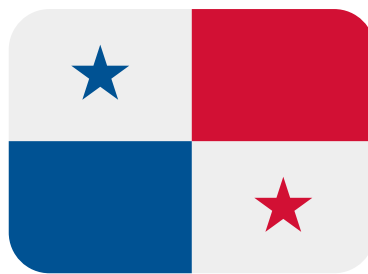
Only for staff at fairs and exhibitions.



Temperature checked twice: first to enter the venue, then at registration desk. Mandatory.



Costs of testing / temperature : Client.



# Panama

Information provided by:



## National guidelines



Latest guidelines online:

<https://www.tourismpanama.com/plan-your-vacation/advisories/>

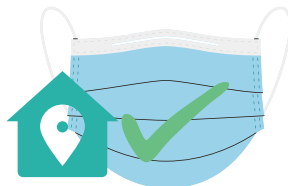


Own guidelines: <https://www.appce.org.pa/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Protocolos-de-la-Industria-de-Evetos-en-Panama.pdf>

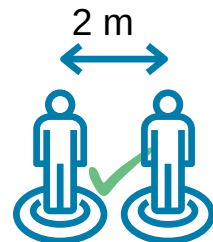
## What are PCOs and venue partners asking attendees to provide/do?



Vaccination required.



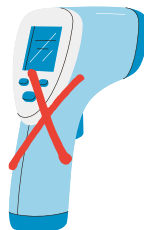
Masks must be worn inside.  
Enforced by venues, hotels, organisers...no mask, no access.



Social distancing required.



Not legally approved yet.



Not mandatory anymore, as evaluated as not effective to detect cases.



N/A.





## National guidelines

Latest guidelines online:

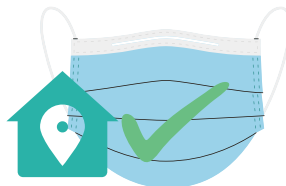
<https://www.srilanka.travel/helloagain/>



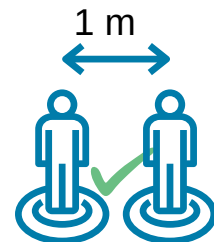
## What are PCOs and venue partners asking attendees to provide/do?



Foreigners: Vaccination required to apply for visa, as well as PCR on arrival and insurance.



Masks must be worn inside.



Social distancing required.



Not yet.

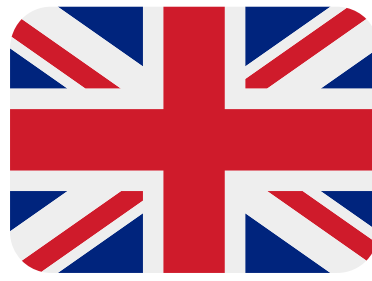


Temperature checks are organised.



Individuals on arrival to the country are responsible for costs.





# United Kingdom

## National guidelines

Latest guidelines online:



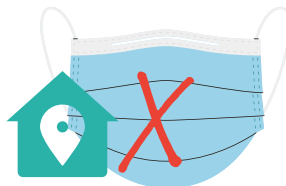
Currently events are open to all. Many organisers are however applying stricter rules.



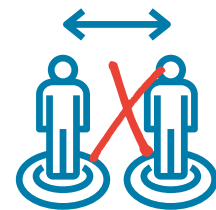
## What are PCOs and venue partners asking attendees to provide/do?



Although not required, some organisers will request proof of vaccination / negative tests.



Masks are not required.



Social distancing not required.



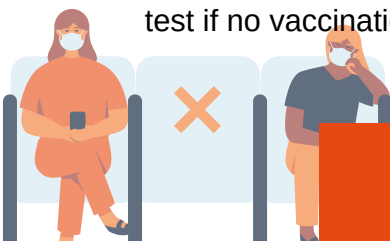
Although not required, some organisers will request proof of negative test if no vaccination.



Not mandatory.



N/A.





## Uruguay

Information provided by:

AUDOCA

### National guidelines



Latest guidelines online:

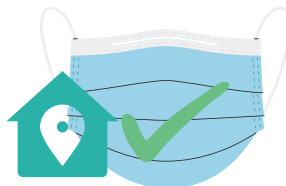
[https://iapcoorg.sharepoint.com/:w:/g/internationalrelations/EQZSfEs8VmdMhYxOMKck8PQB\\_iZZoVv5v1lOXxlgGhEnpKQ?e=1BhfC8](https://iapcoorg.sharepoint.com/:w:/g/internationalrelations/EQZSfEs8VmdMhYxOMKck8PQB_iZZoVv5v1lOXxlgGhEnpKQ?e=1BhfC8)

Meeting planners can submit their specific protocols for the validation of the National health authorities. Protocols must include the basics national rules. Our sector is represented by AUDOCA (our national association) which is preparing a detailed protocol for the MICE industry. In the meantime, some organizers are using protocols approved for social events or hotels.

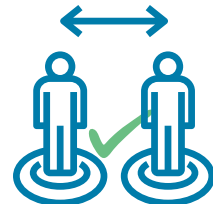
### What are PCOs and venue partners asking attendees to provide/do?



Currently not compulsory. Audience can be fully vaccinated or mixed (with 50% vaccinated). Max. capacity varies from 45 to 50% according to status of pax.



Masks required to enter events. High adoption by population, so enforcement not really needed.



Social distancing required. Capacity between 45% (max. 100 /150 pax) 50% (max. 200/250 pax) depending on vaccination status of the audience.



Not required, at the discretion of the organisers.



Not required, at the discretion of the organisers.



The organiser, as it is their decision.

