

Botany 2022 Conference: Duty of Care

Botany 2022 is committed to continuing to provide a safe and healthy environment for all Annual Conference participants and staff. While Botany 2022 cannot guarantee that Annual Conference attendees will not become infected with COVID-19, Botany 2022 has adopted preventative measures to reduce the potential spread of the COVID-19 virus at our Conference, in accordance with guidance provided by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the World Health Organization (WHO). All Conference attendees are expected to also comply with all applicable requirements of the city of Anchorage, the Dena'ina Convention Center, and the Anchorage Hilton.

Please read the following.

- Botany 2022 highly recommends being fully vaccinated against COVID-19 if attending the Conference.
- Out of consideration for all attendees, Botany 2022 strongly recommends that you take precautions in the week prior to the conference to limit your risk of exposure to COVID-19 as much as possible, and notes that the CDC continues to recommend masks on planes and in airports, and that high quality masks (N95, KN95, KF94) are most effective.
- Due to recent increased prevalence of COVID-19 (including the rise of BA.5), Botany 2022 now will require all Conference attendees to wear masks indoors at conference events (including while on field trip buses); we strongly recommend that attendees wear the most protective masks possible (e.g., N95, KN95, or KF94). We also encourage attendees to practice good hygiene and to observe physical distancing guidelines where applicable.
- Presenters may choose to lower their masks while delivering their special lecture, symposium or colloquium talk, workshop, or contributed paper; all rooms will be set up so that a minimum distance of six feet separates speakers at the front of the room from the first row of (masked) audience members.
- Attendees are encouraged to test frequently during the conference, even when asymptomatic.
- To the extent feasible, Botany 2022 is attempting to minimize the risk of potential transmission at social events where food and/or beverages are present using various strategies (e.g., holding some events on open-air terraces, setting up food service away from the poster session, and reducing the number of seats at banquet tables to allow for greater physical distancing). It will be up to participants to gauge whether they are comfortable eating/drinking, but we encourage those who do consume food/beverages indoors to be considerate of others and minimize the time they are maskless.
- Limited quantities of disposable masks (KN95 and surgical) will be available at the Botany 2022 registration desk. Attendees are strongly advised to bring with them adequate supplies of masks that they will wear with consistency during the conference; this will enable Botany 2022 to provide masks for attendees who forgot them, lost them, or need to replace one.

- If you become ill during the Conference, please remain in your room, and contact Conference Management. They will work with the hotel and put you in touch with local health professionals, as needed. More information about what to do if you become ill can be found at the "[COVID Safety at Botany 2022](#)" link on the Conference website.

You should not attend Botany 2022 if you are experiencing, or within the 5 days prior to the Conference have experienced, signs and symptoms of COVID-19. You also should not attend the Botany 2022 if you believe that you may have been exposed to a confirmed or suspected case of COVID-19 or have been diagnosed with COVID-19 and are not yet cleared as non-contagious by state or local public health authorities or the health care team responsible for your treatment. In addition, Conference attendees should self-monitor for signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and are asked to contact Botany 2022 conference management if they experience symptoms of COVID-19 within 10 days after participating in Botany 2022. Any private health or personal data that may be received by Botany 2022 in connection with such measures and precautions will be treated as confidentially as possible.

All Conference attendees are required to read the Waiver of Liability Relating to Coronavirus/COVID-19 before arriving in Anchorage and sign it upon checking in at the conference.
