



EARP EXPO 2022

COVID-19 POLICY

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Earp Expo LLC

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Contents

City of New Orleans COVID-19 Guidelines	3
Masks	3
Vaccinations	3
Gathering Guidelines	4
Earp Expo 2022 COVID-19 Guidelines	5
Masks	5
Vaccinations	6
General Guidelines	8
Social Distancing	8
Cleaning Protocols	8
Crowd Control	8
Best Practices	8
Hyatt Regency New Orleans COVID-19 Guidelines	9
Travel Restrictions	10
Domestic Travel	10
International Travel	10
U.S Citizens, U.S. Nationals, U.S. Lawful Permanent Residents, and Immigrants	10
Non-U.S. Citizen, Non-U.S. Immigrants: Travel to and from the United States	11
Testing Sites	13
Hold Harmless	13



EARP EXPO 2022 COVID-19 POLICY

Our team is committed to provide all Earp Expo attendees, guests, and volunteers a safe and enjoyable environment during the convention weekend. While we recognize the risk of gathering amidst a global pandemic, we believe we can Earp safely if we all work together and follow the below guidelines.

City of New Orleans COVID-19 Guidelines

As of March 18, 2022, Orleans Parish is categorized as having **LOW** COVID-19 Community Level, therefore, the New Orleans Health Department has revised prior guidelines. Proof of vaccination/recent negative test and masks are no longer required to enter certain establishments. These updated guidelines are in effect as of March 21, 2022.

Masks

Individuals are not required to wear a mask or face covering except for the following:

- On public transportation, including airplanes, ships, ferries, trains, buses, taxis, ride-shares, and the corresponding transportation hubs, as specified in Federal guidelines.
- Healthcare facilities and long-term care settings, as specified in Federal guidelines.

Vaccinations

Individuals will no longer be required to provide proof of full vaccination or a recent negative test to enter bars, restaurants, event spaces, and other businesses previously covered under regulations.

Gathering Guidelines

All individuals should take personal responsibility to prevent the further spread of COVID-19, by assessing the individual risk of attending large and/or crowded gatherings, considering face coverings in public, and staying up to date on vaccinations.

PLEASE NOTE: The City of New Orleans continuously monitors COVID-19 infections in the city and re-evaluates local restrictions as needed. Therefore, local guidelines during the event may be different than what is reflected on this document. Please visit [COVID Restrictions - NOLA Ready](#) for the latest information regarding city mandates.



Earp Expo 2022 COVID-19 Event Space Guidelines

In addition to federal, state, and local guidelines, all Earp Expo attendees, guests, staff, and volunteers will be expected to adhere to the following convention guidelines:

Masks

Masks are **REQUIRED** during all convention-sponsored events including, but not limited to, panels, meet and greets, photo ops, and other special events. Masks may only be removed during professional/table photos (at the discretion of each individual cast guest) and/or while actively eating or drinking. For all other indoor event and hotel spaces, masks are **HIGHLY RECOMMENDED**.

VACCINATIONS

All Earp Expo staff, attendees, guests, and volunteers 5 years of age and older must provide proof of two doses of the COVID vaccine, except for those who have received one dose of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine, **OR** a negative PCR, molecular, or antigen test within 72 hours of registration to access event spaces.

- The name on vaccination records or negative test results must match a government-issued photo ID. Name and vaccination status will be verified during registration.
- Valid Vaccination documentation includes:
 - LA Wallet App
 - Center for Disease Control (CDC) Card
 - Original, digital photograph, or photocopy of CDC Vaccination Card (both sides)
 - Other Official Record
 - An official vaccine record issued by another state, foreign nation, or the World Health Organization
 - Vaccine Trial Record
 - An official vaccine record issued through a vaccine clinical trial
- COVID test results must include the individual's name, date of test, and results clearly visible on the official report.
- At this time, Federal, State, and local guidelines recommend but do NOT require COVID booster shots.
- Possession of a valid Earp Expo pass indicates compliance with the event vaccination requirements.

INDIVIDUALS REPEATEDLY IN VIOLATION OF THE MASKING POLICY MAY BE ASKED TO LEAVE THE EVENT SPACE AND THEIR CONVENTION PASS FORFEITED WITHOUT REFUND.

EARP EXPO

General Guidelines

In addition to the above requirements, Earp Expo will implement the following to prevent the spread of COVID-19:

Social Distancing

- We dramatically increased the overall size of our event space to optimize social distancing capabilities.
- Additional seating will be included in the main panel room to allow attendees to spread out a comfortable distance.
- Social distancing markers will be posed posted in waiting areas.
- Plexiglass barriers in designated areas

Cleaning Protocols

- Hand sanitizer will be available for use around the event spaces and will be required before entering the photo booth and/or taking selfies at the autograph table.
- Staff and volunteers will disinfect high-touch areas throughout the day.
- Photo op booths will be cleaned regularly.
- Chairs and stage equipment will be disinfected after each panel

Crowd Control

- Reduced capacity limits in panel, autograph, and photo op rooms.
- One way traffic flows and staggered exits for panels and group events.
- Digital queuing software implemented in the autograph room to reduce foot traffic and wait times.

Best Practices

- Regularly wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds and/or use hand sanitizer (60% or greater alcohol content)
- Follow local travel guidelines
- Do **NOT** attend Earp Expo if you're sick, have had any COVID-19 symptoms in the last 10 days, or have had close contact with anyone with confirmed COVID-19 in the last 10 days. For the latest quarantine and isolation guidelines, please visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/quarantine-isolation.html>
- If you develop symptoms of COVID-19, do not enter the event space. Please visit a [testing site](#) and self-isolate in your hotel room. Please report any positive results to COVID@earpexpo.org.

Please Note: In the event local/venue COVID-19 guidelines are looser than convention guidelines, convention guidelines supersede in event spaces.

EARP EXPO

Hyatt Regency New Orleans COVID-19 Guidelines

The safety and wellbeing of Hyatt guests and staff are some of their highest priorities. Thus, the hotel has enhanced their [safety and cleanliness protocols](#) to maintain a safe environment amid the pandemic.

Cleaning & Sanitization

- Regular cleaning and sanitization of frequently touched surfaces and high-traffic guest and Hyatt staff areas such as elevators and elevator buttons, escalator handrails, and restrooms, as well as the surfaces and equipment in gyms and spas.
- Enhanced cleaning protocols for guest rooms, including the removal of high-touch items
- Minimizing the number of times hotel teams enter guest rooms and adjusted housekeeping schedule.

Temperature & Wellbeing Checks

- Hyatt staff are required to have a body temperature check each time they enter a hotel.
- Guest temperature checks may be required in compliance with local requirements or in light of community spread of COVID-19 in the hotel's area.

Hand Hygiene & Social Distancing

- Reminders on hand-washing techniques are located throughout the hotel.
- Hand sanitizer stations or sanitizing wipes also prominently placed throughout the hotel
- Protective shields are placed at the front desk and grab-and-go markets.

Masks & Gloves

- Hyatt requests all fully vaccinated guests wear face masks or coverings in hotel indoor public areas, as well as outdoors where social distancing is not feasible (with some limited exceptions) when hotels are located in counties with substantial or high COVID-19 transmission rates, as designated by the CDC.
- Guests who are unvaccinated are required to wear face masks or coverings in hotel indoor public areas, as well as outdoors where social distancing is not feasible (with some limited exceptions).
- Hyatt staff are required to wear face masks or coverings, as well as additional personal protective equipment based on job specifications.

Knock & Go Room Service

- To minimize contact, all room service orders will be delivered to the door, unless otherwise indicated.

Food Safety Protocols

- Kitchen surfaces are frequently disinfected and food prep staff are required to wear masks and gloves when plating and serving made-to-order dishes.
- Buffet offerings at hotel restaurants were replaced with à-la-carte menus and made-to-order options.

EARP EXPO

Travel Restrictions

Domestic Travel

- Wearing a mask over your nose and mouth is required in indoor areas of public transportation (including airplanes) and indoors in U.S. transportation hubs (including airports).
- Do not travel if you are sick, tested positive for COVID-19 and haven't ended isolation, had close contact with a person with COVID-19 and haven't ended quarantine, or are waiting for results of a COVID-19 test.
- If you are unvaccinated, the CDC recommends:
 - Getting tested with a viral test as close to the time of departure as possible (no more than 3 days) before you travel
 - Get tested with a viral test 3-5 days after returning from travel.
 - Stay home and self-quarantine for a full 5 days after travel.
- For vaccinated travelers, self-monitor for COVID-19 symptoms; isolate and get tested if you develop symptoms upon return from your destination.

International Travel

Earp Expo attendees planning on traveling to the U.S. for the convention are solely responsible for adhering to the entry requirements of the U.S. and their country of origin, including COVID-19 vaccination and testing requirements. Please keep in mind, turn-around-times for COVID-19 tests in the New Orleans metro area vary by testing site so make sure to account for this in your travel plans. Earp Expo will not reimburse any expenses incurred as the result of any COVID-related departure delays.

U.S. Citizens, U.S. Nationals, U.S. Lawful Permanent Residents, and Immigrants

Arriving by Air

- Before Departure:
 - The CDC **RECOMMENDS** the following for travel to the U.S.:
 - If you are not vaccinated and up to date with your COVID-19 vaccines, get tested with a viral test as close to the time of departure as possible (no more than 3 days) before your trip.
 - The CDC **REQUIRES** the following for travel to the U.S.:
 - Before boarding a flight to the United States, you are required to show a negative COVID-19 test result taken no more than 1 day before travel. There is also an option for people who have documented recovery from COVID-19 in the past 90 days. Children under 2 years old do not need to test.
 - All air passengers to the United States will also be required to provide contact information to

EARP EXPO

airlines before boarding flights to the United States. This strengthens a travel process already in place to rapidly identify and contact people in the U.S. who may have been exposed to a communicable disease, such as COVID-19. Access to travelers' contact information will allow U.S. federal, state, and local health departments, and agencies to share appropriate health and public health information

- Upon arrival:
 - The CDC **RECOMMENDS** the following upon arrival:
 - Get tested with a COVID-19 viral test 3-5 days after travel.
 - Self-monitor for COVID-19 symptoms; isolate and get tested if you develop symptoms.
 - Follow all state, tribal, local, and territorial, recommendations or requirements after travel.

Non-U.S. Citizen, Non-U.S. Immigrants: Travel to and from the United States

Arriving by Air

- Before Departure:
 - The CDC **RECOMMENDS** the following for travel to the U.S.:
 - If you are not vaccinated and up to date with your COVID-19 vaccines, get tested with a viral test as close to the time of departure as possible (no more than 3 days) before your trip.
 - The CDC **REQUIRES** the following for travel to the U.S.:
 - Wearing a mask over your nose and mouth is required in indoor areas of public transportation (including on airplanes, buses, trains, and other forms of public transportation) traveling into, within, or out of the United States and indoors in U.S. transportation hubs (including airports and stations). Travelers are not required to wear a mask in outdoor areas of a conveyance (like on open deck areas of a ferry or the uncovered top deck of a bus).
 - All non-U.S. citizen, non-U.S. immigrants traveling to the United States by air are required to show proof of being fully vaccinated against COVID-19. Only limited exceptions apply.
 - Before boarding a flight to the United States, you are required to show a negative COVID-19 test result taken no more than 1 day before travel. There is also an option for people who have documented recovery from COVID-19 in the past 90 days. Children under 2 years old do not need to test.
 - All air passengers to the United States will also be required to provide contact information to airlines before boarding flights to the United States. This strengthens a travel process already in place to rapidly identify and contact people in the U.S. who may have been exposed to a communicable disease, such as COVID-19. Access to travelers' contact information will allow U.S. federal, state, and local health departments, and agencies to share appropriate health and public health information necessary to help keep the public safe.
 - Any other required documentation, such as your passport and any visa or other entry/residency documentation.

EARP EXPO

- Upon Arrival:
 - The CDC **REQUIRES** the following upon arrival in the U.S. if you are **NOT VACCINATED**:
 - Get tested with a viral test 3-5 days after arrival, unless you have documentation of having recovered from COVID-19 in the past 90 days.
 - Stay at home or in your hotel room and self-quarantine for a full 7 days, even if you test negative, unless you have documentation of having recovered from COVID-19 in the past 90 days.
 - Isolate if your test result is positive or you develop COVID-19 symptoms.
 - If you intend to stay in the United States for 60 days or longer, you must become fully vaccinated against COVID-19 within 60 days of arriving in the United States or as soon as medically appropriate, unless you have a medical contraindication or are too young to be vaccinated.
 - The CDC **RECOMMENDS** the following upon arrival if you **ARE VACCINATED**:
 - Get tested with a COVID-19 viral test 3-5 days after travel.
 - Self-monitor for COVID-19 symptoms; isolate and get tested if you develop symptoms.
 - Follow all state, tribal, local and territorial recommendations or requirements after travel.

Arrival at Land Port of Entry or Ferry Terminal

- Inbound non-U.S. individual travelers (non-U.S. citizens who are neither U.S. nationals nor lawful permanent residents) can seek to enter the United States via a land port of entry or ferry terminal if they are fully vaccinated and have appropriate documentation.
- Non-U.S. individuals traveling to the United States via land ports of entry or ferry terminals, whether for essential or non-essential reasons, must:
 - Verbally attest to their COVID-19 vaccination status
 - Provide proof of a CDC-approved COVID-19 vaccination, as outlined on the CDC website
 - Present a valid Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI)-compliant document, such as a valid passport, Trusted Traveler Program Card, or Enhanced Tribal Card
 - Be prepared to present any other relevant documents requested by a U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officer during a border inspection
 - Meet all other existing requirements for entry not related to COVID-19.
- COVID-19 testing is **NOT** required for entry via a land or ferry port of entry.

IMPORTANT: Wearing a mask over your nose and mouth is required in indoor areas of public transportation (including on airplanes, buses, trains, and other forms of public transportation) traveling into, within, or out of the United States and indoors in U.S. transportation hubs (including airports and stations). Travelers are not required to wear a mask in outdoor areas of a conveyance (like on open deck areas of a ferry or the uncovered top deck of a bus).

For additional information on travel restrictions to/within the U.S., please visit [Travel | CDC](#)

EARP EXPO

Testing Sites

Numerous health care facilities in the New Orleans metro area provide COVID testing services for a nominal fee. PCR and antigen tests are offered, but availability may vary by site. If you require pre-entry testing for travel, please check with the facility to make sure test results will be accepted by your travel provider and country of origin.

New Orleans Healthcare Facilities offering COVID Testing:

- [CVS](#)
- [DePaul Community Health Centers](#)
- [Gretna Medical Center](#)
- [In+ Out Urgent Care](#)
- [LCMC Health Urgent Care](#)
- [Ochsner Urgent Care](#)
- [The Urgent Care](#)
- [Walgreens](#)

In addition, the City offers free mobile testing in various neighborhoods around the city. Click [here](#) for the latest testing schedule.

Hold Harmless

By attending Earp Expo, you hereby agree to all guidelines set forth in this document and our event [Terms and Conditions](#). You acknowledge that you are aware that there are risks of exposure to directly or indirectly arising out of, contributed to, by, or resulting from an outbreak of any and all communicable disease, including but not limited to, the virus “severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2)”, which is responsible for Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) and/or any mutation or variation thereof. In addition, you voluntarily agree to waive, hold harmless and indemnify Earp Expo LLC and its trustees, agents, volunteers and employees from any and all claims, demands, damages and causes of action of any nature whatsoever arising out of ordinary negligence which I, my heirs, my assigns or successors may have against them for, on account of, or by reason of my participation in the above activity.