

IPS COVID-Safe Conference Liverpool 2021

The IPS will take all necessary precautions to make our Conference COVID-SAFE. Here are the measures we are taking, and those we are asking you to follow to keep everyone safe. We thank you in advance for your co-operation.

NB These measures take cognisance of the varied recommendations required by the separate Departments of Health of the UK and Ireland and are set at the highest national specification.

COVID Safety Coordinator (CSC) & COVID Safety Guardians (CSG)

There will be a covid-safety-coordinator (CSC) each day of conference who will be located on the IPS stand at all breaks. Please report any COVID related concerns. You are encouraged to report any concerns and we are committed to respond to them promptly.

COVID-19 Guardians have been appointed from the IPS Management Executive Group and Scientific Programme Committee, they will be carrying out ongoing reviews of the COVID measures onsite and taking any corrective actions required.

BEFORE CONFERENCE

The IPS supports vaccination as per the Governments' policy. Therefore, we recommend that all those attending in person are fully vaccinated. If you are un-vaccinated or partly vaccinated, we recommend you attend as a virtual delegate.

- We encourage you to have a negative Lateral Flow Device (LFD) Test before travelling to Liverpool, and to attend conference only if you are negative and asymptomatic.
- Any attendee who is unable to attend because of a positive test will be transferred to on-line attendance without loss of funds.
- Any international delegates, please book your day 2 PCR test early and have it sent to the hotel that you are staying at.
- We recommend that you download the NHS App and check into any venue you attend whilst at conference.

Preventing exposure and attendee care

- We ask that you take an LFD Test each morning prior to arriving at the conference venue.
- Please have sufficient LFD testing kits with you. These are available via <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>
- If at any point you test positive, please let the CSC know immediately via text to 07943105585 and arrange for a PCR test
- The CSC/ CSG will help you to coordinate getting home as safely as possible and will ensure you are checked in on whilst isolating in your accommodation
- Anyone needing to go home due to a positive LFD test or PCR test (proof required) will be fully reimbursed for any days not attended.

Testing available at the conference

The conference centre is a LFD testing hub, and will accommodate a small number of delegates who forget to bring their lateral flow device testing kits with them. Please be organised and bring enough kits with you, as we wouldn't want anyone to be turned away. We cannot rely on this service for our delegates or exhibitors.

International delegates will be issued with LFD testing kits at registration if you are unable to bring these with you, so please register at the conference centre as soon as you are able.

DURING CONFERENCE

To prevent droplet transmission

- It is recommended that you wear your face covering wherever possible, however, once seated and physically distanced in the lecture theatres / session rooms your face-covering may be removed.
- Seating in the session rooms will set up with spaces between each seat. Please observe these plans and sit where directed.
- We ask you to observe and maintain a safe distance from others wherever possible.
- Please follow the one-way systems in operation in all areas of the conference centre.
- To prevent logjams, there will be stewards managing the flow of people. Please comply with their instructions.
- It is expected that all attendees will practice cough hygiene etiquette.

To prevent direct and indirect contact transmission

- There will be frequent and enhanced cleaning of high-touch surfaces in place.
- Hand sanitisation stations will be located throughout the venue, with complementary personal hand sanitisers available for all attendees at registration. [We know you will know when and how to use them].
- Contactless payment will be available at the venue.

To prevent airborne transmission

- There is a set maximum number of people who may enter each session room; therefore, please arrive early at your preferred sessions / talk to avoid disappointment.
- Keep physically distanced in the session rooms
- To minimise air-recirculation, the Venue's management will set the air-conditioning units to 'Maximum Fresh-Air Intake', and the extraction mode to 'Full'.

Outside of conference centre precautions

- You are asked to follow the above precautions whilst attending conference and when outside the conference centre if networking/ socialising
- Please choose wisely where you go to meet friends/ colleagues, pick well ventilated establishments and wear face coverings if you cannot keep physically distanced from people you do not know.
- Please behave in a manner that upholds the reputation of the infection prevention society. We are an IPC charity, and we need to ensure that there is minimal risk of bringing COVID-19 into the conference centre.
- The Gala dinner event is being organised separately from the conference and you will receive additional guidance on this. This event has been scaled down and will have the same COVID-19 measures in place as described above. If you are booked to attend Gala Dinner you will be provided with a separate safety sheet, with strict instructions to follow to keep this a safe event.

AFTER CONFERENCE GUIDANCE

- If you present with COVID-19 symptoms or have a LFD or PCR test that yields positive within 48 hours of attending conference, then you must inform NHS Test and Trace so they carry out appropriate contact tracing.

DISCLAIMER

We acknowledge that we cannot guarantee an exposure-free COVID conference, and that conference brings together people in close contact which presents transmission risks; however, by providing the above and with the co-operation of all attendees in following this guidance during and outside conference, we believe the IPS is providing the safest possible conference.