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FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

COVID-19 Policy Update – January 31 2022

YMCA Texas Youth and Government is excited to welcome participants back to Austin and the State Capitol for the Middle School State Conference February 25, -27 in 2022 and the High School State Conference, April 21-24, 2022. After the past 18 months, we believe that connecting with others is more important than ever and want to balance the strong desire to have an in-person conference with a safe and healthy place for all participants.

To ensure we have safe and healthy program spaces, we have developed the following COVID-19 Preparedness Policies in response to the COVID-19 pandemic for ALL ATTENDEES: Students, Advisors, YMCA Staff attending the conference.

MASKING

All attendees and volunteers will be required to wear a mask/face covering while indoors and traveling on the shuttles to meeting venues. Face coverings can be removed while alone in a meeting room or in your sleeping room. Face coverings must fully cover the nose and mouth. In certain situations, face coverings may be removed while you are speaking to a group in a program session. Final guidance on this will be provided as we get closer to the State Conferences.

PROOF OF NEGATIVE COVID TEST

All attendees staying overnight in the hotel will be required to have a COVID test prior to their conference. **All middle school conference participants** (students, advisors, Y staff, board members, volunteers) will need a COVID test on these specific dates; February 21, 22, or 23, 2022 with a **negative result uploaded to our portal no later than February 24, 2022.** **All high school conference participants** (students, advisors, Y staff, board members, volunteers) will need a COVID test on these specific dates; April 17, 18 or 19, 2022 with a **negative result uploaded to our portal no later than April 20, 2022.**

The test must be a SARS-CoV-2 viral test (either nucleic acid amplification test [NAAT], including polymerase chain reaction [PCR], or antigen test) with Emergency Use Authorization from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. Home tests will not be accepted.

Results of that **test must be uploaded to our designated site** before arriving to State YG (this link will be available one week before each State Conference)

SLEEPING ROOMS

Rooming assignments at the State Conference are usually 3 to 4 students per hotel room, depending on number of beds and/or sofa sleepers. Students may also share a bed with another student.



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Additional Program Guidelines

Participants will not be allowed to “come and go” from the conference, except to eat offsite (high school only) with their club as scheduled for meals (high school Thursday and Friday evening meals with club) Middle School participants will have dinner provided on site at the hotel on Friday evening, there will be no meals offsite with the club) **once at conference, all participants will need to stay at the conference to keep potential exposure to a minimum.**

Some programming and evening activities will take place in small groups while still maintaining the traditional Texas YG experience.

Texas Youth and Government requires all **participants to stay at least six feet** apart whenever possible, regardless of whether masks are being worn. If physical distancing is not possible, participants should limit the time of the contact and avoid any physical contact.

Meal times and transit periods will be **staggered** and extra COVID safety protocols established.

OVERALL COVID POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Any student or adult experiencing any of the known symptoms of COVID-19, (including, but not limited to, fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, congestion or runny nose), or who has been in close contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19 in the 10 days prior to the conference, must not attend the conference.

We will follow any requirements put in place by the CDC, Travis County Health Department, Renaissance Hotel, Texas State Capitol and other meetings venues that host our program as well as the YMCA of Austin.

If contact tracing or other safety protocols are necessary, we will work with appropriate agencies, including schools/YMCAs, to conduct these in a proper manner.

AT STATE: The following COVID protocols will be in place for our State Conferences. We may also add additional measures if necessary as we get closer to the conferences.

If an employee is sick or exposed...

1. Texas YG has created a process for informing participants if they have been exposed to a person with COVID-19 in the program space that requires them to quarantine for the remainder of a program event.
 - a. The State Director will notify the Delegation’s lead.
 - b. Working with the Delegation’s lead, the State Director will ensure the exposed person goes into quarantine. During the State Conference, the quarantine space will either be the exposed individual’s hotel room or another designated room.



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- c. If the exposed person is a student, the Delegation Lead or State Director will notify the student's parent(s)/guardian(s) of the exposure.
 - d. Transportation to and from the State Conference is coordinated by local delegations. We strongly recommended that each delegation's leads take appropriate steps to ensure exposed individuals do not travel to and from Texas YG events with unexposed individuals.
 2. If a participant becomes aware of an exposure to COVID-19 outside of the Texas YG event, they must inform their Delegation Lead and State Director, and immediately begin quarantining.
 3. If a staff member or an attendee develops symptoms consistent with COVID-19, such as fever, cough, or shortness of breath, AFTER a Texas YG event, the following steps will be taken to prevent the spread of COVID-19:
 - a. The Delegation lead should immediately contact and notify the State Director
 - b. The State Director will work with Program Area Leads and local Delegation leads from around the state to immediately notify individuals with whom the person was in close contact.