



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

COVID-19 Policy Update – March 9, 2022

YMCA Texas Youth and Government is excited to welcome participants back to Austin and the State Capitol for 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 adjust our policies to reflect the local and statewide public health changes we have chosen to issue an update to our Covid-19 policies for the upcoming high school state conference. ATTENDEES: Students, Advisors, YMCA Staff attending the conference.

MASKING OPTIONAL

All attendees and volunteers are welcome to wear a mask/face covering, but this will not be a requirement for attendees, guests, or volunteers.

COVID TEST

Covid testing prior to traveling to Austin and the conference is encouraged but results will not be collected by the State Office. If you test positive for Covid, you are not permitted to participate in the conference and a full refund will be given.

SLEEPING ROOMS

Rooming assignments at the State Conference are 3 to 4 students per hotel room, depending on the number of beds and/or sofa sleepers. Students may be required to share a bed with another student. If you do not wish to share a bed with another student, we encourage you to bring additional sheets for an air mattress. Air mattresses will be available on site.

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). **Once at conference, all participants will need to stay at the conference.**

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 by the YMCA of Austin.



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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.
 - 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.