

Mythcon 52 COVID Policy

The Mythcon 52 organizing committee is taking the precautions outlined below to ensure the safest possible environment for our presenters, attendees, and local staff (at the hotel, school, and restaurant we will use). In Bernalillo county, where Albuquerque is located, [81.4% of adult residents have completed the primary series of vaccinations](#) (as of 3/20/22).

Only in the event of an unavoidable circumstance (such as a ban of all gatherings of over a certain number) would we consider canceling Mythcon 52, so you can rest assured we are going forward.

However, participating in any kind of gathering poses some degree of risk of infection. Beyond the requirements outlined here, participants are encouraged to follow their own risk-comfort level when choosing among events to attend. The Mythopoeic Society accepts no responsibility for any spread of COVID-19 as part of travel to, from, or participation in Mythcon 52.

Requirements

Proof of Vaccination or Negative COVID Tests will be required

In line with many Federal and State job requirements, all conference participants will be required to show proof of COVID-19 vaccination or negative PCR test within the previous 72 hours to receive a conference badge (nametag). Proof of vaccination must be for fully-vaccinated status, and we will follow the CDC's definition of "[fully vaccinated](#)," which is currently two weeks after the second dose of a 2-dose series or two weeks after a one-dose series. Booster shots are recommended if available to attendees, but are not required, unless the CDC updates their definition of fully vaccinated to include them before July 1, in which case they will be required.

Vaccination proof may be presented as a hard copy original, photocopy, or digital copy (picture) of an official, government-issued vaccination card. We will accept the three vaccinations currently recommended by the CDC (Pfizer, Moderna, or Johnson & Johnson). For international attendees, vaccinations approved by the World Health Organization (such as Astra-Zeneca or Covaxin) or an official government-issued vaccination record from another country will be accepted.

Negative PCR test results may be presented in hard copy original, photocopy, or digital copy (picture) format, but the date of the test must be clearly visible (tested within 72 hours of check-in) and results must be displayed in English.

Badges

A conference badge (nametag) will be given to participants at check-in, upon providing proof of vaccination or negative PCR test. Conference badges will be required to be worn by participants in all conference spaces and during all regularly scheduled conference activities. Attendees not displaying their badge will be asked to leave conference spaces and retrieve their badge before rejoining—even if they are presenting in the session. Attendees who lose their badge may

receive a replacement from the registration desk, but will be required to again show proof of vaccination or negative PCR test taken within the previous 72 hours.

The registration table will have several optional badge aids that participants may use to visually indicate information such as level of comfort with social distancing.

Masks

At this time, all conference participants will be required to wear masks indoors that fully cover the mouth and nose during all presentations and panels, unless actively eating or drinking. We can't promise other guests at the hotel or school will always be masked, but only registered attendees will be allowed in conference rooms and programming.

Some of our events involve consuming food and drink in close proximity to others, such as complimentary hotel breakfasts (indoors) and a few shared meals. We encourage members to engage with these parts of Mythcon at their own comfort level, knowing that masking requirements cannot reasonably be enforced outside of panels and programming.

To mitigate risk of spread, shared meals provided by the conference will be offered outdoors whenever possible:

- Green Jeans, the nearby eatery where participants will be invited to have meals, has plenty of (shaded) outdoor seating.
- The banquet will be hosted by The Daily Grind, another nearby restaurant with outdoor seating and good ventilation, so that participants can feel comfortable enjoying a meal in a group setting.

Other Encouraged Safety Measures

As much as possible, the following safety measures will be made available and strongly encouraged. Be aware that sometimes limitations of space, weather, or people nearby not associated with Mythcon may make such safety measures difficult, or even impossible, to fully follow. While we will not require or enforce these measures, we ask that all participants do their best to respect these measures.

- Chairs spread out in meeting and session rooms.
- 6 feet of social distance between people in lines.
- Different types of visual aids available at the registration table symbolizing our social distance comfort level to affix to badges.

Refusal or Inability to Comply

Participants who will not be able or willing to meet the vaccination or negative test requirement may request a full refund of registration fee by July 28, 2022.

Participants who arrive at the conference and decline to show either proof of vaccination or negative test result at check-in will not be allowed admission to the conference.

Please consider established rules to be a way to help protect the health and safety of our fellowship of Mythies, and comply with them joyfully. Participants who refuse to comply with indoor masking rules will be treated as someone violating the conference code of conduct, and will be asked to comply or leave the space.

Revisions to this Policy

We all have great hopes that summer will bring an end to the pandemic...as we have hoped for the past two summers.

As conditions change, these policies may be revised, with the safety of our attendees remaining the paramount priority. This is unavoidable in order to host a conference that is both conscientious of public safety and reasonable in its requirements as the pandemic situation changes.

Even in a best case scenario, however, we do foresee keeping the vaccination or negative COVID test required at check-in policy in place. We recommend all attendees plan ahead to be vaccinated and boosted where possible, and/or plan to have a negative test in time for check-in on Friday, July 29, 2022.

Anyone may request a full registration refund at **any** time before the start of the conference if Mythcon policy changes or the state of the world oversteps anyone's personal comfort level—or if you test positive for COVID and cannot attend. The Mythopoeic Society is not responsible for any charges incurred as the result of cancellations of anything else such as transportation or hotels. Everyone must accept a certain amount of personal risk by opting to gather in these times, even with the most rigorous safety policies in place. We hope that participants who are dissatisfied either by the stringency or the leniency of these safety requirements will participate in Mythcon 52's virtual option.