



COVID-19 PROTOCOL

The SARS-CoV-2 virus is still highly prevalent around the world. In order to reduce the risk of transmission between people attending the Congress, the following precautions will be in place:

- All participants will be required to wear a Filtering Facepiece Protection (FFP2) mask (or equivalent N95 mask) in all the plenary and other indoor areas in the Congress venue. FFP2 masks will be provided in the Congress bag, which will be given to participants at the Congress registration desk when they register.
- FFP2 and N95 masks may be worn on consecutive days while still providing protection, nevertheless it is recommended that participants alternate the use of the masks. Storing a mask overnight in a paper bag helps to maintain the protective effect.
- All participants are advised to do a self-administered Rapid Antigen Test as close as possible to their departure time from their home country – preferably not more than 6 hours before boarding the flight. If a test is positive, you may wish to repeat the test or do a PCR test or a supervised Rapid Antigen Test. If you do test positive, do not travel. We recommend that participants check before departure if there are any mask or testing requirements that airline(s) and stopover point(s) require.
- All participants are advised to do a self-administered Rapid Antigen Test just before going to the Convention Centre for the opening ceremony of the Congress, a further Rapid Antigen Test on Sunday 20 November before coming to the Convention Centre, and another Rapid Antigen Test as close as possible to the time you will depart from Melbourne to your home country or next destination. Three Rapid Antigen Tests will be provided in the Congress bag for each participant. Additional tests can also be purchased in Melbourne at a cost of around AUD 5.
- In addition to these measures it is recommended that FFP2 masks be worn elsewhere while indoors and that social distancing be observed. Bear in mind that the 1.5 metres of separation recommended by many authorities may not be sufficient to avoid the spread of the SARS-CoV-2 variants that are now circulating.

While there is very little, if any, evidence of significant transmission of the SARS-CoV-2 virus by touching surfaces, good hand-hygiene is still highly recommended as it provides important protection against transmission of other diseases transmitted by surface contact.

Ventilation at the Congress venue is designed to ensure good airflow to reduce the risk of accumulation of the virus in enclosed spaces.

First-aid assistance will be available at the Congress. Any participant who tests positive for Covid-19, or is concerned that they are developing symptoms of the virus, should isolate until they test negative and are free to contact an ITUC staff member by email or other electronic means to obtain advice or assistance. Please also feel free to contact an ITUC staff member if you require advice or assistance concerning any significant non-Covid-related illness in Melbourne.