

COVID Risk Mitigation Strategy

RayFest. Uluru, NT, 15th to 17th May 2023

This conference has been organised as a hybrid event, with both an in-person and virtual component, to maximise inclusivity and allow attendees the option to attend remotely. In an event like this, the maximum benefit is from the in-person aspect and being at the venue.

To minimise the risk of COVID transmission among attendees, we have developed a COVID Risk Mitigation Strategy. Attendees are required to carefully read the Strategy and agree to adhere to the Guidelines.

Travel restrictions

In brief, there aren't any restrictions.

NT: <https://health.nt.gov.au/covid-19/travel/travel-to-and-from-the-nt>

Vic: <https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/information-travellers>

NSW: <https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/travel>

WA: <https://www.wa.gov.au/government/covid-19-coronavirus/covid-19-coronavirus-information-travellers>

International arrivals: <https://www.health.gov.au/health-alerts/covid-19/international-travel>

Risk summary

Covid-related risks

Risk: Travel interruptions or delays due to restrictions or changes to flights

Impact: People unable to make it to the venue as planned

Mitigation: Monitor COVID levels and restrictions closer to the event.

Risk: Personnel covid-positive yet asymptomatic prior to workshop

Impact: Come to workshop in person & infect others (include workshop attendees, site staff, public); Determined to be positive while at workshop and be required to isolate.

Mitigation: Request everyone does a Covid-19 test within 48 hours prior to departure (RAT or PCR¹). Require a negative RAT test prior to attendance each day of conference; any accompanying costs to be covered by the appropriate budget.

¹ In most cases PCR tests are only freely available if symptomatic, and this is recommended for people with symptoms.

Risk: Personnel contract covid while travelling (e.g. on plane)

Impact: Become ill during workshop; Infect others; Required to isolate (in NT) with attendant costs

Mitigation: Recommend use of masks (P2/N95 preferred) etc while travelling and at the event require RAT testing prior to attendance each day at workshop; any accompanying costs to be covered by conference budget.

Risk: Spread of infection at workshop venue.

Impact: Multiple people become ill during workshop; Need to isolate; Reduced participation at workshop

Mitigation: Ensure appropriate social distancing and airflow (including leaving doors open where possible); hold meals and breaks outdoors, weather-permitting; Workshop organisers will ensure a readily available supply of masks during the event and encourage usage while indoors.

Risk: Attendees become positive during workshop

Impact: Per NT guidelines, isolation is recommended to limit the spread of COVID. Attendees may require medical care.

<https://health.nt.gov.au/covid-19/managing-covid-19/if-you-test-positive>

Response: Attendee shall isolate and not attend the meeting in-person. They may attend virtually if they feel well enough. Professional medical costs would be covered by the attendee (through Medicare / health or travel insurance). Conference organisers can assist, but attendees should ensure adequate insurance coverage by own university/institute.

Guidelines

Attendees:

1. Encouraged to wear mask while indoors during the workshop unless eating or drinking.
2. Take a RAT or PCR test prior to travelling to the venue (ideally within 48 hours of departure), and stay home if a positive result is obtained.
3. Take a RAT test prior to attendance each day of workshop, and isolate if a positive result is obtained.
4. Remain socially-distanced from other attendees and personnel, where possible and practicable.
5. Be aware of any symptoms of illness and only attend if feeling well
6. Report any symptoms or positive tests to workshops organisers (Minh and Nick).
7. Encouraged to eat and drink outside, weather-permitting
8. Should ensure adequate insurance coverage by own university/institute in case of COVID.