COVID-19 Health and Safety Policy
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To our FIRST Washington Volunteers

The work that you do is critical to creating engaging and meaningful experiences for the kids who participate in FIRST Washington programs. Whether they are returning team members or first-time participants, we must do all we can to continue empowering young people to become passionate innovators of STEM.

Event staff and attendees participating in this event should recognize that any gathering poses an increased risk of COVID-19 exposure and spread. FIRST Washington believes that the best path toward ending the COVID-19 pandemic — and having a successful season — is through vaccination.

Our primary goal is to offer an in-person competition season for all of our FIRST Washington programs (First Lego League, First Tech Challenge, and First Robotics Competition). Your cooperation is helping build events that are safe and inclusive for all, and assists us in this goal.

Thank you for your continued commitment to inspiring young people to become STEM innovators of tomorrow.

We look forward to a fun and safe competition season for all!
Vaccine Requirement Overview

The health and safety of our community is top of mind for us. **FIRST Washington will not offer religious or medical exemptions.** More information about the safety and effectiveness of COVID-19 vaccines can be found at [The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](https://www.cdc.gov) and the [World Health Organization](https://www.who.int) websites.

Volunteers

Volunteers include mentors, coaches, and event volunteers. In keeping with Governor Inslee’s mask amendment and vaccine proclamation, which defines workers as also being volunteers, **FIRST Washington we will require all “in person” volunteers to be fully vaccinated for COVID-19 by October 18th, 2021.** All FIRST Washington staff attending events are also required to be fully vaccinated. We will offer remote volunteer opportunities for anyone who wishes to volunteer and is not vaccinated.

Participants

**Students 5+ are required to be fully vaccinated OR show proof of negative COVID-19 test upon entry to event.**

Spectators / Adult Chaperones

**Spectators and Adult Chaperones are required to be fully vaccinated OR show proof of negative COVID-19 test upon event entry.**

Event Entry Requirements

**Both proof of vaccination and proof of negative COVID-19 tests only need to be given once per event.** So if you are attending an event that lasts more than one day, you only have to provide proof upon initial entry. You will be given a wristband to signify you’re approved to enter the event. If your wristband is lost or removed, you will have to show proof again to receive a replacement wristband and enter the event.

Volunteers - Proof of Vaccination

Prior to entering any FIRST Washington event, **all event staff and volunteers will be required to show proof of vaccination.** Please be advised that a person is considered fully vaccinated two weeks after the second dose of Pfizer or Moderna vaccine or two weeks after one dose of Johnson & Johnson vaccine, or two weeks after completing another approved vaccine. Please provide one of the following:
• Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) COVID-19, or other government-issued vaccination record card, or photo of card.
• Other official immunization record from within or outside the United States, including from your health care provider. A photo or photocopy of this card is also acceptable.

Participants - Proof of Vaccination/Proof of Negative COVID-19 Test
Participants are able to provide a negative COVID-19 test in replacement of proof of vaccination.
  • Proof of negative PCR COVID-19 test in the last 5 days (prior to the first day of any 2+ day event).
  • Both Antigen tests and Molecular/PCR tests are accepted.
  • Rapid tests will be accepted if taken by a student participant in front of coach no more than 5 days prior to the first day of an event. As there is no way to verify the date they are taken, a student’s coach will be required to vouch that the students’ test came back negative.

Adult Chaperones and Spectators - Proof of Vaccination/Proof of Negative COVID-19 Test
  • Proof of negative PCR COVID-19 test in the last 5 days (prior to the first day of any 2+ day event).
  • Both Antigen tests and Molecular/PCR tests are accepted.
  • FIRST Washington will not provide rapid tests to be taken at events, but Adult Chaperones and Spectators may bring their own.
    o Rapid tests will be accepted if taken upon entry in front of Event Check-In Volunteers as there is no way to verify the date they are taken.
    o If a rapid test is taken upon event entry and has a positive result, adult chaperones and spectators will not be allowed to attend the event.

Health Check
Each person who has completed all event entry requirements and is approved to attend the event will receive a wrist band so they can easily move in and out of the venue without the need for rescreening.

Please be advised that if you have any COVID-19 symptoms, you will not be permitted to enter the event.

Stay Home if you:
  • Have tested positive for COVID-19.
  • Are waiting for COVID-19 test results.
  • Are feeling unwell and/or have any of the following COVID-19 symptoms.
    o Fever or chills
    o Cough
Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

- Have had close contact (within 6 feet for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period) with a person who has tested positive for or who has symptoms of COVID-19 within the last 14 days, unless you have been fully vaccinated.

**Event Attendance**

**Contact Tracing**

Contact tracing is key to slowing the spread of COVID-19 and helps protect the community by:

- Letting people know they may have been exposed to COVID-19 and should monitor their health for signs and symptoms of COVID-19.
- Helping people who may have been exposed to COVID-19 get tested.
- Asking people to self-isolate if they have COVID-19 or develop symptoms of COVID-19 or to self-quarantine if they are a close contact.

Prior to the event, all event staff/volunteers, coaches, and team members attending the event should register with FIRST, complete a “FIRST Consent and Release Form,” and coaches should bring the “Team Roster” to the event. All team members (youth and adults) must be listed on the “Team Roster.” During the registration process they will provide their name, phone number, and email. Alternatively, a parent or guardian name, phone number, and email if the team member is a minor. Contact information will be accessible to event organizers via the “Team Roster.”

Event attendees will be required to provide contact information prior to entering the event. This information will only be used for the purposes of contact tracing and will be destroyed no more than 30 days after the event.

If a person who attended this event tests positive for COVID-19, someone from the health department may call you to discuss important COVID-19 information, such as signs and symptoms of COVID-19, testing, and quarantine. Discussions with health department staff are
confidential. This means that your personal and medical information will be kept private and only shared with those who may need to know, like your health care provider.

Please review the information for [what to expect to happen during contact tracing](#), provided by the CDC.

**Limiting Attendance**
As of this moment, we do not plan to limit event spectator attendance. But this could change based on the severity of the COVID-19 pandemic and the regulations placed by each event host. If we do need to limit attendance, teams will be permitted to bring 1 adult volunteer per every 4 team members. If further limitation is necessary to meet attendance limitations, Only event staff, team members, coaches/mentors, and additional people traveling with the team may attend this event.

**Event Behavior Requirements**

**Face Masks**
Face masks are required for all event staff, students, volunteers and attendees (despite vaccination status) and should always be worn in all event areas. Masks may be temporarily removed to accommodate eating and drinking.

- All event staff and attendees are required to bring their own masks.
- Masks should [fit well](#) and be worn completely over the nose and mouth.
- The following mask types are **NOT** approved for use at this event:
  - Cloth masks with exhalation valves or vents since they allow respiratory droplets containing the virus to escape.
  - A face shield used alone without a face mask
  - Bandanas
  - Scarves
  - Ski masks
  - Balaclavas

- The following categories of people are exempt from the requirement to wear a mask at this event:
  - A child under the age of 2 years.

**Hand Hygiene and Respiratory Etiquette**
Hand hygiene should be practiced and encouraged by all event staff and attendees.
• All event staff and attendees should wash their hands frequently (for example, before, during, and after check-in, touching garbage, using the restroom) with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
• Event staff and attendees should use hand sanitizer, available at hand sanitizing stations throughout the event, including before and after game play or practice field use or any other time that soap and water are not readily available.
• All event staff and attendees should refrain from singing or shouting, especially indoors. Please use alternate ways to celebrate like clapping, dancing, finger-snapping, etc.

Physical (Social) Distancing
Physical distancing will be practiced at this event.

• Keep 6 feet of distance between yourself and people who don’t live in your household or not part of your cohort (members of the same home team) whenever possible.
• Follow all physical distancing guidelines, including direction provided by event staff.
• Follow all signage and marker direction, such as those that are freestanding or on the ground, to indicate the appropriate direction of pedestrian movement or to maintain a safe physical distance from others.
• Do not greet others with physical contact (for example, handshakes) or celebrate with high-fives or fist bumps.

FIRST recognizes a single home team as a cohort, which is not subject to the same 6-foot physical distancing requirement. However, this exception only applies to members of the same home team. In all other cases, the physical distancing requirements outlined in this policy remain in effect.

Signs and Messages
Comply with all COVID-19 health and safety signs that are displayed in waiting areas, near restrooms, in seating areas, and used to control traffic patterns and entrance and exit points.

Follow event staff instructions related to COVID-19 safety.
**FIRST Washington Policy Compliance**

**Acknowledgment Form**

Each coach must agree to abide by the FIRST Washington COVID-19 Health and Safety Policy, to share this policy and compliance expectations with their team members and their families, and to sign the FIRST Washington COVID-19 Health and Safety Policy Affirmation Form and return the form to event organizers prior to the start of the event.

**Policy Changes and Non-Compliance**

Given the current trajectory of the pandemic, these guidelines may change with little notice up to and including event cancellation based on updates from the CDC and Washington State Department guidelines. If this event must be cancelled, you will be notified via email and the event will be rescheduled or moved to a remote event platform.

The information contained in this document is not intended or implied to be a substitute for professional medical advice, diagnosis, or treatment. All content, including text and links, are provided for general informational purposes.

Any person entering this event is required to abide by this COVID-19 health and safety policy and the FIRST Code of Conduct. Non-compliance may result in removal from this event and being barred from future participation in FIRST activities.