

COVID-19 safety at Royal Society of Biology events

The safety of our members, guests and staff is at the forefront of our plans and we want to reassure all our attendees that we have taken measures to ensure their safety, and to encourage their engagement in achieving the best outcomes. We will be following government guidelines at all of our events, in addition to any venue-specific policies.

What is the RSB doing?

We will encourage all guests to practice good hygiene, maintain social distance where possible and strongly encourage the use of masks in crowded and indoor spaces.

We will carry out risk assessments prior to our events and will be making the assessments available to all attendees on request. Due to the evolving landscape of COVID-19 spread and risk profile, and evolving government guidelines, we will review our risk assessment in the final planning stages for any event.

What happens if the COVID-19 situation changes in the UK?

Our top priority is the health and wellbeing of everyone attending our events in any capacity. It is difficult to predict exactly how the COVID-19 pandemic situation will develop, and we can only reassure you that we will continue to monitor the situation closely and keep you updated on any developments relevant to events. If things change, we will review and update our approach accordingly.

As vaccination programmes continue to roll-out and provide individuals with extra protection against serious illness and help reduce infection and transmission, we hope this reduces the need for all the measures we have outlined here. However, we also recognise that the global COVID-19 situation could mean we need to increase these measures and ask our guests to take additional steps to improve safety.

What measures will be in place at the venue for greater COVID-19 safety?

We will work closely with all our venues to maximise the safety of everyone attending.

We will be following the [government guidelines](#) very closely and will be carrying out a risk assessment in the weeks closer to the event.

We will provide clear information for everyone before and during our events.

We will encourage good hygiene practices, good venue ventilation, retain contactless processes where possible, encourage delegates to maintain social distance and support the use of masks indoors.

Will guests need to have had a vaccine or a recent negative test to attend?

We strongly support the vaccination programme and encourage everyone who is eligible to take up the vaccine when offered, including any booster programme as it becomes available.

At present, COVID-19 status checks are not legally required for most events, with exemptions listed on the [government website](#).

All attendees at RSB events, are encouraged to take a Lateral Flow Device (LFD) test within the preceding 24 hours, and only attend on the basis that this is negative.

However, should the venue require a COVID-19 pass showing vaccination details or test results, we will provide clear information for attendees ahead of the event and in good time.

If you are travelling from outside the UK, ensure that you check the latest information on requirements for [entering the UK](#) before you book your place at our events.

What if I experience COVID-19 symptoms?

Anyone with [COVID-19 symptoms](#) must not attend any RSB event. Visit mySociety for our [cancellation policy](#) and get in touch if you are unable to attend due to COVID-19.

Follow NHS guidance on [what to do](#) if you have symptoms in the UK.

What happens if I am unable to attend due to COVID-19?

If you are unable to attend due to COVID-19 (either you have COVID-19, you have symptoms of COVID-19, you have been told to isolate, or there are now restrictions in place that prevent you from travelling) you should let us know as soon as possible that you are unable to attend.

What if I experience COVID-19 symptoms after attending an RSB event?

If you test positive for COVID-19 in any time 14 days after attending an RSB event, contact the event's organisers. We will not identify individuals but we will alert participants should they have been at an event with a COVID-19 positive participant.

Contact

If you have any questions on any of the above, or would like to talk this through with us, please do get in touch at events@rsb.org.uk