



8th SESSION OF THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES
26 – 30 September 2022, Budapest, Hungary

“Strengthening Flyway Conservation in a Changing World”

GUIDELINES FOR IN-PERSON PARTICIPANTS

1 September 2022

COVID-19 PREVENTION AND RISK MITIGATION MEASURES

NB : these guidelines are subjected to revision following the status of the COVID-19 pandemic

Background

The 8th session of the Meeting of Parties to AEWA (MOP8) will take place in the background of the ongoing global COVID-19 pandemic. The COVID-19 Pandemic has had a significant impact on many fronts including global health, travel and interpersonal interactions. With better understanding of the spread and control measures relating to COVID-19, it is now possible to have safer in-person meetings anchored on effective implementation and compliance with public health preventive measures.

These Guidelines are based on the experiences obtained through the meetings organized in 2022 by UNEP and biodiversity-related MEAs. It is difficult to predict how the situation will evolve. With that uncertainty in mind, we have decided to be rather adaptative in our approach and some of the preventive measures may be modified by the 26 September.

In Hungary, the Host Government is working closely with the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat on addressing the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the forthcoming MOP. The health and safety of participants during MOP8 is a key priority for the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat and the Host Government. This summary guidance has been prepared to inform all meeting participants about the COVID-19 prevention and mitigation measures in place for MOP8. It also outlines the COVID-19 code of conduct summarizing the expectations from delegates and other participants during the conference period.

Have a safe meeting experience!

SCOPE OF GUIDANCE

This COVID-19 guidance is applicable to all in-person participants attending MOP8 and the events organized in its margins (side-events, receptions, etc.).

The related Code of Conduct is also applicable to all in-person participants who are expected to commit to the observance of the laid down COVID-19 prevention and mitigation measures during these events.

These guidelines will be subject to an update during the MOP in light of the evolution of the COVID-19 pandemic and may be relaxed, tightened or complemented by additional specific guidance based on information provided by the host government, and in view of the evolving medical advice.

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW BEFORE ARRIVAL:

REGISTRATION / COVID-19 VACCINATION STATUS

The vaccination against COVID 19 is no longer mandatory but it is highly recommended to be vaccinated for your own safety. The Secretariat will not be able to cover the costs of a hospitalisation. Thus, being vaccinated is the best way to avoid strong symptoms which may lead to a hospitalisation.

Please check with your airline if a test or a proof of vaccination is needed before boarding.

ARRIVAL INTO HUNGARY

From Monday, 7 March 2022, travelers have been able to enter Hungary without the need of vaccination or immunity certificates, or any kind of test or quarantine obligation.

We recommend that before travelling, all meeting participants check the travel information and COVID-19 requirements which can be found on the following websites:

<https://www.police.hu/en/content/information-on-general-rules-of-border-crossing>

<https://visithungary.com/category/covid-19-information>

GENERAL COVID-19 PREVENTION MEASURES FOR ALL IN-PERSON MEETING PARTICIPANTS

ESSENTIAL PREVENTIVE MEASURES:

Meeting participants should avoid exposing themselves to COVID-19 by practicing preventive health measures at all times. These preventive measures are summarised below:

- **All participants are requested to test themselves every day before entering the venue.** For that purpose, antigen self-tests will be available and distributed to all participants for the duration of the meeting at a desk close to the registration desk. Before registering, every participant will be asked to take the test (it takes 15min) and will then be allowed to register. If you take a test on the day you register before coming to the venue, you are requested take a photo of the result and show it at the control. Everyday a different coloured sticker will be added to the badge. After being registered and for the remaining meeting days, you are requested to take the self-test at the hotel, take a photo after 15min and no later than 30min (because the result could be altered) and show this photo every morning at the control and get a new coloured sticker if the test is negative. If you are not able to take a photo, you are requested to bring the test in a plastic bag, but it is not recommended. All participants are required to take the tests regardless of whether one has symptoms or not.

- Stay at your hotel or residence if you have a positive test OR develop a fever OR if you feel unwell in any way as the tests are not 100% accurate. It is better to miss one day of the meeting rather than to create a cluster.
- Avoid close contact with other persons both within and outside of the meeting venue to limit potential exposure to COVID-19.
- Wash your hands with soap and water or use alcohol-based sanitizer for hand hygiene. Hand hygiene facilities will be provided for the duration of the meeting at the MOP8 venue.
- Wear a well-fitting face mask (Standard surgical face mask, FFP2 or KN95) that fully covers your mouth AND nose. The mask should be worn before, during and after the meeting and in all shared public spaces. Masks will be available at the registration desk.
- Good ventilation at the meeting venue has been prioritised, however, you should avoid any poorly ventilated spaces particularly at hotel accommodation or during external interactions. Whenever possible, ensure that your hotel or residence windows remain open to facilitate optimum ventilation.
- Practice correct cough and sneeze etiquette. Ensure that you cover your cough or sneeze with a disposable tissue or with your elbow.
- These WHO-approved COVID-19 preventive measures are applicable to all persons regardless of their COVID-19 vaccination status.

SPECIFIC ACTIONS TO TAKE BEFORE YOUR MEETING

Prepare yourself before attending the in-person meeting:

- Familiarise yourself with the current COVID-19 situation from reliable sources such as the WHO and the Hungarian authorities. Kindly see below sample links:
 - WHO COVID-19 info
 - WHO Africa Dashboard
 - <https://visithungary.com/category/covid-19-information>
- Carefully read this COVID-19 health information package.
- Share your contact information with the meeting organiser. This information will include your full name, mobile phone number and email contact details and your hotel/residential details. This information will be available to the meeting organisers in the event that contact tracing is required. Contact tracing is an important disease control procedure and will be undertaken if an in-person participant is diagnosed with COVID-19 infection.
- Ensure that you carry your health insurance details/card as you attend the meeting. This will be important in case external medical assistance or hospitalization is required.
- Check your health closely before attending in-person meetings. Take note of any Covid-19 symptoms including sense of fever or actual measured temperature at 37.5C (99.5F) or above. In case you have any of the stated symptoms, you are advised to take the following actions
 1. Stay at home OR remain in your hotel room.
 2. Excuse yourself from attending in-person meetings.
- Take a COVID-19 rapid antigen test each morning before attending the in-person meetings. These rapid antigen test kits (lateral flow devices) will be provided at the MOP8 registration desk.
- Do not attend any in-person meeting if you are currently living with someone in isolation for COVID-19 OR have been in contact with someone diagnosed with COVID-19 within the preceding 14 days.

COVID-19 HEALTH & SAFETY MEASURES AT MEETING VENUES:

To enhance the health and safety of meeting participants, the following measures will be in place:

- **Face mask mandate within MOP8 venue:** meeting participants will be expected to wear face masks at all times with an exception applied when a participant is delivering a statement or having a

drink/meal. Participants need to be aware of the Do's and Dont's of face mask use. That is currently the best way of protecting not only yourself but all participants.

- **Hand hygiene measures:** Soap and water will be available in the bathroom facilities. Alcohol hand sanitizers will be available within the conference venue.
- **Defined seating arrangements at the meeting venues:** Participants are advised to comply with the seating arrangements and the applicable limits for delegation numbers to avoid a situation of crowding in the meeting venues. Meeting participants are expected to exercise prudence in applying physical distancing measures during meetings and during any mutual interactions outside the meeting venue. There should be no handshakes, hugs, or similar high-risk contacts.
- **Regular announcements on COVID-19 precautions and compliance:** Announcements relating to COVID-19 measures and compliance will be relayed at the beginning of the conference and from time to time by assigned personnel.
- **COVID-19 Hotline support:** A medical support will be available for the duration of the meeting.
- You are discouraged from sharing common gadgets during the meeting. This applies to items such as microphones, pens, or other similar objects. Inadvertent sharing of such items should be followed by immediate use of alcohol hand sanitizer or handwashing with soap and water.
- **Regular cleaning of the meeting venue:** The meeting organizers have ensured that meeting venues will be regularly cleaned with a focus on high touch surfaces to limit the risk of transmission of COVID-19 infection.
- **Optimized ventilation:** meeting venues will have adequate natural or artificial ventilation in place.

QUARANTINE & ISOLATION FOR COVID-19

- Self-quarantine is the act of separating oneself from others following contact with an individual having COVID-19. An individual in quarantine will require COVID-19 PCR testing to confirm if the said exposure resulted in COVID-19 infection. Self-quarantine is undertaken while closely observing one's health for symptoms of COVID-19. Quarantine can be undertaken at home or at your hotel accommodation.
- Isolation refers to act of separating oneself from others when you are confirmed to have COVID-19. Isolation is important not only in controlling the spread of COVID-19 but also for monitoring in case escalation of medical care is required. Isolation can be undertaken at home or at your hotel accommodation.
- In both instances of quarantine and isolation, close follow-up with the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat personnel will be important to ensure optimal health for participants and early referral for medical assistance if required. English and French speaking persons will be available. Collaboration with hotel and government medical personnel will also be important in supporting the health and safety of all participants and hotel guests.
- In the event of UNEP/AEWA sponsored participants testing positive for COVID-19 and hence having to isolate, UNEP/AEWA Secretariat will provide daily subsistence allowance (DSA) as per Budapest's standard UN rate during a maximum of 7 days, less in case of a negative test (usually within 5 days). Such DSA can be used to cover accommodation, meals, penalty for changing tickets and any other related costs. UNEP/AEWA Secretariat will not be in a position to provide any additional financial support.
- UNEP/AEWA Secretariat will not be in a position to provide financial assistance to non-sponsored participants testing positive for COVID-19 and hence having to isolate.

MEDICAL SUPPORT DURING THE IN-PERSON MEETING:

- Adequate medical support will be made available on site. This includes emergency medical support for COVID-19 and Non-COVID-19 related emergencies. Ambulance transfer will be available in the event that a participant requires facility assessment or emergency admission.

- Please note that participants are to contact the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat to report any confirmed COVID-19 diagnosis during the period of in-person meetings.

SELF-MONITORING AFTER IN-PERSON MEETINGS

Actions to take following conclusion of the conference:

Following the conclusion of in-person meetings, participants are expected to monitor their health closely for a period of 14 days.

Annex 1: Additional COVID-19 Information links

1. [WHO COVID-19 Videos](#)
2. [Preventing COVID-19 infection at work](#)
3. [Prevent COVID-19- Do the 5!](#)
4. [Important hand hygiene steps](#)
5. [How to properly fit your mask](#)
6. [7 steps to prevent the spread of COVID-19](#)
7. [COVID-19 Importance of combined preventive measures](#)