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KY YMCA KYA 2021 COVID-19 Health & Safety Protocols Updated: 10/11/2021

The health and safety of our participants has been, and always will be, our top priority.

The Kentucky YMCA Youth Association is excited to host KYA in-person and will do everything possible to ensure the health and safety of all participants. Please know that participants will be participating in many activities that can involve increased risk for the transmission of COVID-19. While we will adhere to CDC guidelines, all participants are attending at their own risk. Participation is purely voluntary, and the Kentucky YMCA Youth Association cannot be held responsible if a participant contracts COVID-19 or is exposed to the virus.

We intend to comply with guidelines and recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, American Camp Association, YMCA of the USA, as well as our state and local health departments to ensure we provide the healthiest environment possible. This KY YMCA website/document will be updated as guidelines may change.

Pre-Conference Protocols:

In order to attend KYA 2021, participants must either:

1. **Be fully vaccinated against COVID-19** and be at least two weeks after receiving their final dose. A copy of the vaccination card must be submitted via the form contained in this email. We recommend bringing a copy to conference as well.
2. If not vaccinated, (or at least two weeks after their final dose), participants must have **a negative test within 72 hours of arrival**. *Please note that our preference is 48 hours before arrival — due to the contagion window being much narrower within that time frame —but we understand that rapid testing accessibility may be limited in areas. We strongly encourage a negative test 48 hours before arrival, if possible. Home test results will not be accepted.* A copy of the negative test result must be submitted via the form contained in this email. We recommend bringing a copy to conference as well.
3. If tested positive recently, **a letter for release from quarantine** more than 7 days prior is also accepted.

Please note that adult and student participants will not be allowed at the conference if proof of vaccination or negative test results are not present. **No refunds will be given if**

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someone shows up without this necessary documentation. Testing will not be available onsite.

Any student or adult experiencing any of the known COVID-19 symptoms, (including, but not limited to, fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, congestion, or runny nose), or who has been in close contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19 in the 10 days prior to the conference, **must not attend the conference**. Those with extenuating circumstances (e.g. doctor's note, documented Covid-19 exposure/test, or death in the family) can email starla@kymca.org to explain their request for a larger refund. These requests will be handled on a case-by-case basis, factoring in incurred costs and potential attendance at another conference.

The KY YMCA understands that the conference policies may be stricter than some school policies, but we believe it is necessary to create the safest conference environment possible.

The KY YMCA will not grant any exceptions to the policies stated above.

Participants' families will also be asked to **complete a health questionnaire/health screening** pre-conference to assess the potential exposure of the participants to the COVID-19 virus. If a participant shows symptoms right before arriving to KYA, they will be asked to stay home. This completed form should be given to advisors to turn in during registration.

A COVID-19 Waiver is required to be signed by all adult and student participants and turned in during registration at the conference.

It is incredibly important that the KY YMCA has **each participant's most accurate emergency contact information** should we need to contact a parent or guardian in the event of a COVID-19 exposure, or if your teen tests positive (or shows symptoms) for COVID-19.



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At-Conference Safety Protocols:

General:

- We will operate at a **lower capacity**, in accordance with CDC guidelines and our own abilities to maintain a safe environment.
- Masks will be required indoors unless eating, sleeping, showering, or brushing teeth. **Masks must be worn over the nose and mouth at all times. Gaiters and bandanas will not be allowed at the conference.** If a participant does not abide by our masking policies, they will be asked to leave the conference without a refund. The KY YMCA will not grant any exceptions to the masking policy.
- Masks will be kept on **while giving speeches** into a microphone.
- Large group sessions will take place, but **physical distancing of 3 ft** will be in place along with assigned seating for contact tracing purposes.
- **Assigned seats** will be in place for all committee and chamber rooms, along with 3 ft. physical distancing between chairs, allowing for contact tracing purposes.
- **Hotel roaming is not allowed while at KYA.** Participants must be in mandatory sessions or sleeping rooms.
- Two schools will not be combined for sleeping room purposes in order to limit exposures.
- Youth and adults will be encouraged -- and provided with opportunities -- to wash their hands frequently and use the hand sanitizing stations around the hotel when hand washing is not possible.
- **Participants will remain at the hotel**, and will not visit the Capitol, to limit bus transportation times.

Meals:

- Schools will be assigned rooms to **eat as a delegation**—or will be asked to eat in their sleeping rooms— in order to limit the exposure while masks are down while eating. The exception of this may be for high school specialized programs and Presiding Officers which will be seen as their own pod.
- Schools and specialized programs will be called individually to purchase or receive their food items at the conference.
- **Late night pizza will not be served** to eliminate food sharing at the conference. We strongly discourage schools and individuals from using food delivery services while at the conference to avoid increased exposures.
- **Smoothies will not be sold** at the hotel to limit crowding in hallways.



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- The coffee shop will remain open and will have spacing markers on the floor to assist with physical distancing.
- **The Bluehorse restaurant will be closed to KYA participants** due to limited contact tracing measures, and increase of exposure to the general public, that can take place inside of the restaurant.

Foot Traffic Control:

- Schools will receive **assigned arrival times** to limit hallway traffic in the hotel.
- Committees and Chambers will be **dismissed strategically and individually** to limit hallway traffic in the hotel.
- Schools will be dismissed individually to their sleeping rooms to avoid hallway traffic in the hotel.
- Stairs will be encouraged at all times- except for accessibility purposes- to **limit time on elevators**.
- Mandatory fun will switch to a **concert and talent show** style format to have assigned seats for distancing and contact tracing purposes. There will be a **movie option** where individuals will be required to sign up beforehand to allow for have assigned seating and contact tracing.

Visitors and Leaving Early:

- The KY YMCA **will not allow visitors** at the 2021 KYA conference, with the exception of advisors who need to switch out with another advisor. Any type of advisor switch must be approved pre-conference by the director and all people must follow our documentation requirements of proof of vaccination or negative test.
- If a school is **not staying overnight** they must check-out with the KY YMCA each night, but cannot leave before the assembly ends. **If parents are picking up students, they must remain outdoors and have their proof of identification ready to show to pick-up their student.** Students should sign-in with their school each morning at a designated location inside the hotel. If a student doesn't show up for a day of programming a member of the Y-staff must be informed immediately.
- **Students will not be allowed to leave the conference and return to the conference**, apart from if their school is not staying overnight. Exceptions will not be made for students who wish to leave for sports or other extracurricular activities as the risk for exposure is too high. No refunds will be given if a student chooses to leave the conference early for another commitment and cannot return to due the KY YMCA policies.



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Sick Policy Before and At Conference:

- Any student or adult **experiencing** any of the known COVID-19 symptoms, (including, but not limited to, fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, congestion or runny nose), or who has **been in close contact with a confirmed case** of COVID-19 in the 10 days prior to the conference, **must not attend the conference.**
- All students and adults **must be 72 hours free of vomiting and diarrhea** before attending the conference.
- If a student or adult becomes sick while at the conference, **we will work to quarantine them into their own room and will move any roommates to a new room.** The potentially ill participant will be required to create a plan to be picked up from the conference within a six-hour period. **All illnesses fall under this policy** and there are no exceptions as we cannot take additional risks around health and safety measures. Refunds will not be given as all incurred fees will have already been paid for. Those with extenuating circumstances (e.g. doctor's note, documented Covid-19 exposure/test, or death in the family) can email starla@kyyymca.org to explain their request for a larger refund. These requests will be handled on a case-by-case basis, factoring in incurred costs and potential attendance to another conference.
- **Your teen's safety is our number one priority.** The KY YMCA will use **contact tracing** to determine if any students were directly exposed to COVID-19. Family members of teens who were directly exposed will be contacted immediately. We are using guidelines from the CDC and State/Local Department of Health and schools to detect levels of exposure. **If a student tests positive directly following KYA please contact amanda@kyyymca.org so that contact tracing can begin.**