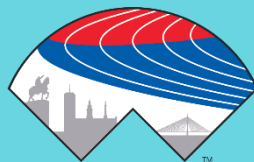




# MEDICAL CLEARANCE PROTOCOL FOR MEDIA



WORLD ATHLETICS  
INDOOR CHAMPIONSHIPS  
**BELGRADE 22**

As of 15 December 2021

[www.worldathletics.org](http://www.worldathletics.org)

The document presents the medical clearance protocol designed for the purpose of the World Athletics Indoor Championship 2022. By implementing this protocol, we aim at reducing the risk of SARS-CoV-2 transmission as much as possible. It is important to remember that a certain degree of risk will always remain, as transmission risk can be minimized but cannot be fully eliminated. For these rules to be effective it is fundamental that participants comply to them and respect general public health recommendations for the entire duration of their stay in the hosting country. Health and safety can only be ensured if all contribute to their care.

## 1. General rules and principles

To be able to host sport events during the actual pandemic situation, World Athletics, in agreement with the organizers and the local government, have decided to design and implement this set of procedures.

Wearing a mask covering the mouth and the nose is mandatory in all public areas at all time, except while consuming food or beverages.

All participants are required to wear a mask at all times. Surgical masks will be provided by the LOC. The use of disposable FFP-2 type masks is strongly recommended while travelling. Masks should be disposed on a regular basis according to the type of mask.

Any interaction, which constitute a significant risk of virus transmission, with an individual who is not accredited or directly involved in the organization of the event is prohibited at all times.

**The sanitary procedures described in this document, are subject to change according to the local and global COVID-19 pandemic situation.**

## 2. Medical Clearance Protocol

All International accredited participants taking part to the World Athletics Indoor Championships Belgrade 22 will have to comply with the Medical Clearance Protocol.

The Medical Clearance Protocol for Media contains three stages, that apply to different groups based on the vaccination status. Failure to comply with the stages of the Medical Clearance Protocol will prevent the person from accreditation and access to any official venue and/or taking part to any competition-related activity.

## 2.1 STAGE 1 – Before Travelling (all participants)

Once a media accreditation application is approved, and a few days before the event a separate e-mail will be sent to the e-mail address of the media to provide the following information:

- Online COVID-19 symptoms self-report form
- Online medical information release agreement
- Upload the result of a negative SARS-CoV-2 naso/oropharyngeal Real Time Polymerase Chain Reaction, (RT-PCR) swab test in English, performed in the 48 hours prior to arrival (this is the date and hour of issue of the certificate that counts). If there is a delay in entering the Republic of Serbia, which cannot be attributed to the passenger's fault, but is a consequence of an external event that could not have been foreseen, avoided or eliminated – delay of the flight, the departure of buses, trains, etc, then the test cannot be older than 72 hours when entering the Republic of Serbia. The cost of this test is under the individual's responsibility.
- If available, upload the vaccination certificate and provide information on date of vaccination and type.
- Inform on the need for a RT-PCR test to travel back to home country.

**All media representatives are strongly encouraged to check with their own Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the travelling airline company, if the rules for entering Serbia have changed or if specific conditions apply when travelling from their country.**

<https://www.mfa.gov.rs/en/citizens/travel-serbia/covid-19-entry-requirements>.

Results from blood serological or antigenic tests will **NOT** be accepted as a part of the Medical Clearance Protocol. The RT-PCR test result must be uploaded to this specific platform in pdf format.

If there is any issue, participants will be contacted by the World Athletics Health & Science Team on the personal email address provided.

**National media** will be allowed to collect their accreditation badge after having provided either:

- Proof of complete vaccination with the approved vaccines (see 2.2 below for the list of approved vaccines)

**or**

- Negative PCR test result performed no later than 24 hours before arrival at the stadium or official venue for non-vaccinated (or vaccinated with a non-approved vaccine). RT-PCR tests need to be repeated every 48 hours in case non-vaccinated participants wish to attend the event for the entire duration.

## 2.2 STAGE 2 – Entering Serbia (all participants)

Everyone must comply with travel regulations in force at the time of the journey and must have enough masks and hand sanitizers for the entire journey duration. Under standard condition a surgical mask should be changed every 4 to 5 hours to keep its protective effect optimal. The purchase of personal protective equipment for travelling purpose is under the responsibility of each subject.

All media representatives are strongly encouraged to be vaccinated against COVID-19, to reduce the spread of the virus and the need for medical care in case of infection.

To collect the event's accreditation badge, all participants need to have completed the World Athletics Championship Health and Safety online process STAGE 1 (all) and STAGE 2 (only for non-vaccinated subjects).

Based on their vaccination status and upon checking the vaccination certificate, international participants will follow different Medical Clearance Protocols:

### Vaccinated participants

If you are vaccinated with any of the following vaccine, there is no need to take a test upon arrival:

- Pfizer BioNTech,
- Oxford Astrazeneca,
- Covishield AstraZeneca,
- Moderna,
- a single dose of Johnson & Johnson (Janssen).

Vaccinated media representatives staying in the media hotels will be transferred after arrival to their respective accommodation to check in and collect their accreditation badge from the main accreditation centre.

**Media representatives vaccinated with any other than the approved vaccines (list above) are considered as non-vaccinated and the non-vaccinated participants protocol applies to them.**

### Non-vaccinated participants

Non-vaccinated international media representatives after arrival will be transferred to the Main Testing Centre, where they will be tested either with saliva or naso/oropharyngeal swab LAMP test to detect SARS-CoV-2. It is strongly recommended to avoid drinking, eating, smoking or brushing teeth for at least 30 minutes before taking the test, as this might cause inconclusive results thus requiring a repetition.

After having been tested, participants will either be transferred to the media hotels or they will have to arrange transportation to their private accommodation.

**Participants will be informed about the test's results only in case of positivity or inconclusive results, in which case the sample will need to be recollected and the test repeated.**

In case of positive result, the subject will need to stay in the room, avoiding any contact with other participants. LOC and World Athletics Medical teams will immediately contact the person and organise a second confirmatory test with RT-PCR and inform of the next steps. The test results will be available in approximately 8 hours.

The negative roommate (if any) will stay in the same room after this has been properly sanitized. Negative contacts of a positive case (provided that all basic sanitary measures have been maintained the whole time) will be required to provide reporting symptoms form every 24 hours to the LOC Medical Director or World Athletics Medical Delegate. The negative roommate of a positive contact will not share the room with anyone else for the duration of stay. They will be re-tested every 24 hours with LAMP test, according to the re-testing plan.

The cost of the test to detect SARS-CoV-2 genetic material (RT-PCR) onsite will be covered by the LOC. This also includes costs related to confirmatory RT-PCR test (if needed).

A specific team to collect samples for confirmatory RT-PCR test will be available 24h. During day hours the team will be located at the Main Testing Centre.

**As mentioned in 2.1 all National (Serbian) non-vaccinated Media need to repeat RT-PCR tests every 48 hours in case they wish to attend the event for the entire duration.**

### **2.3 STAGE 3 - Re-testing for non-vaccinated international Media**

All non-vaccinated international Media will be re-tested with LAMP to detect SARS-CoV-2 genetic material every 48 hours.

Re-testing will be organized every 48 hours in specific time windows, starting from the first test performed upon arrival. Sample collection scheduling will be planned according to the category's schedule and, possibly, in the evening in order to provide results by the following morning. Participants will be informed about the test's results only in case of positivity or inconclusive results, in which case the sample will need to be recollected and the test repeated.

LAMP tests will be performed either on saliva or through naso/oropharyngeal swab. **It is strongly recommended to avoid drinking, eating, smoking or brushing teeth for at least 30 minutes before taking the test, as this might cause false positive or inconclusive results.**

**All non-vaccinated international Media representatives will have to go through the re-test procedure at the Main Testing Centre.**

## 2.4 STAGE 4 - Leaving Serbia

Participants who need a negative RT-PCR test to re-enter their home country, must inform World Athletics when providing information through the Health and Safety system.

Based on the departure date, participants will be able to do a RT-PCR test in their Main Testing Centre. Collection of samples for RT-PCR will start on Friday 18th of March at 15:00 and be available until 20:00. Same collection hours will be observed on Saturday 19th of March for those leaving on Monday 21st of March.

All COVID-19 positive cases occurring within ten days following the end of the event should be notified to the World Athletics Medical Delegate. This information will be dealt confidentially and will be used only for both epidemiological and contact tracing purposes.

## 3. COVID-19 positive tests results management while in the Republic of Serbia

In case of COVID-19 positive test result during the stay in Serbia the person will be isolated in dedicated rooms on restricted access floors, in the same hotel. The person must avoid any contact with others.

According to the Serbian Public Health Authority, each person who is tested and confirmed positive by RT-PCR for COVID-19 while staying in Serbia, has to be isolated for a period of at least 14 days. The place where the positive case will be isolated is the hotel where the person is accommodated at the moment of diagnosis. The costs for the extended staying due to isolation or quarantine are to be covered by the participants or the sending organization. If symptoms-free for a period of 14 days, the person will be released from isolation, without performing an additional RT-PCR test.

All subjects who had prolonged and close contact with an infected person (e.g. roommate, contact without mask and/or no respect of social distancing) must be isolated as described above. Determination of the “contact persons” will be done by both the Local Sanitary Authorities and the World Athletics Medical Delegate, based on the information provided by the positive case.

Close contacts will be traced, LAMP tested every 24 hours and required to report potential symptoms every 24 hours to the LOC Medical Director or World Athletics Medical Delegate. The negative roommate of a positive contact will not share the room with anyone else for the duration of stay.

The cost of the test to detect SARS-CoV-2 genetic material (RT-PCR) onsite will be covered by the LOC. This also includes costs related to confirmatory RT-PCR test (if needed).

A specific team to collect samples for confirmatory RT-PCR test will be available 24h.

## 4. Financial liability

The Medical Clearance Protocol Stage 1 is under the full responsibility of participants or sending organization.

The Medical Clearance Protocol Stage 2 is under the shared responsibility of the LOC and World Athletics.

The Medical Protocol Stage 3 for International Media (non-vaccinated) is under the shared responsibility of the LOC and World Athletics.

The RT-PCR tests for National (Serbian) Media (non-vaccinated) is under their responsibility.

The Medical Clearance Protocol Stage 4 is organized by the LOC together with World Athletics, but sample collection and tests analysis will be done by an external laboratory, accredited by the National Public Health Authorities and certified by International Standard Quality Control bodies. Costs for these additional tests will be carried by the participant or sending organization.

## 5. Data Protection

The personal information provided to World Athletics and the LOC in accordance to this protocol will be held and managed in accordance to the Medical Clearance Protocol Privacy Policy and/or Event Management System Privacy Policy. These privacy policies are available to participants at the time of registering on the accreditation system and on World Athletics website in the Health and Science Library section.