



Joint Meeting of the Bern Convention Network of Special Focal Points on Eradication of Illegal Killing, Trapping and Trade in Wild Birds and the CMS Intergovernmental Task Force on Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the Mediterranean and
7th Meeting of the Bern Convention Group of Experts on the Conservation of Birds
(Valencia and Online 7 to 10 June 2022)

GUIDELINES FOR IN-PERSON PARTICIPANTS
(as at 22 April 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 Joint Meeting of the Bern Convention Network of Special Focal Points on Eradication of Illegal Killing, Trapping and Trade in Wild Birds and the CMS Intergovernmental Task Force on Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the Mediterranean and the Meeting of the Bern Convention Group of Experts on the Conservation of Birds 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.

The health and safety of participants during the meetings is a key priority of the Bern Convention and CMS Secretariats and Spain as the Host Country. This summary guidance has been prepared to inform all in-person participants about the COVID-19 prevention and mitigation measures in place. It also outlines the COVID-19 code of conduct summarizing the expectations from delegates and other participants during the meeting period.

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW BEFORE ARRIVAL:

Registration / COVID-19 Vaccination Status

- All delegates, regardless of rank and affiliation who intend to participate in the meetings in person are required to verify that they are fully vaccinated against COVID-19¹.
- The CMS Secretariat will review and verify vaccination certificate QR codes as a basis for the issuance of meeting badges.

¹ "Fully vaccinated" means persons who have, at least 14 days prior to the date of the opening of the meeting, received their final dose of a vaccine against COVID-19 or a booster of that vaccine approved for use by the regulatory mechanisms of the country of vaccination.



The European Union was recognized as Champion Plus for their generous support and commitment towards addressing Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the Mediterranean for the period 2018 - 2023. This activity has been funded with the contribution granted by the European Commission under the Migratory Species Champion Programme and through the Global Public Goods and Challenges (GPGC Programme) Cooperation Agreements with UNEP.



TRAVELING TO SPAIN

All in-person participants should be aware of the host country entry requirements regarding COVID-19, i.e., COVID-19 vaccination requirements, COVID-19 testing and other related public health requirements. The travel information and COVID-19 requirements can be found on the following websites:

www.spth.gob.es

<https://travelsafe.spain.info/en/>

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 summarized below:

- Observing a minimum physical distance of 1 meter at all times. Avoid close contact with other persons both within and outside of the meeting venue to limit potential exposure to COVID-19.
- Regularly wash your hands with soap and water or use alcohol-based sanitizer for hand hygiene. Hand hygiene facilities will be provided during the duration of the meetings at the 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 meetings and in all shared public spaces in line with the host country public health requirements.
- Stay at your hotel or residence if you develop cough, aching body, headache, sore throat, a fever, shortness of breath or if you become unwell in any way.
- Good ventilation at the meetings venue has been prioritized; 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 mouth or sneeze with a disposable tissue over your mouth or with your elbow.
- These WHO-approved [COVID-19 preventive measures](#) are applicable to all persons regardless of COVID-19 vaccination status.

COVID-19 Health & Safety Measures at the Meeting Venue:

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

- Face mask mandate within the venue of the meetings: meetings participants will be expected to wear face masks (standard surgical face mask, FFP2, or KN95) at all times with an exception applied when a participant is delivering a statement or having a drink/meal. Proper use and disposal of face masks into bins will limit exposure of other participants to COVID-19 infection.
- Hand hygiene measures: soap and water will be available in the bathroom facilities. Alcohol-based hand sanitizers will be available within the conference venue.
- Posters and signage displaying COVID-19 related information will be placed as visual cues and reminders within the venue.
- Participants are expected to follow COVID-19 signage instructions to enhance meetings safety
- Defined seating arrangements at the meetings venue: Seating will reflect the concept of 1-metre minimum physical distancing. Participants will be required to sit at the same seat to facilitate contact tracing if required.

- Regular cleaning of the meeting venue: The meetings organizers have ensured that the meetings venue will be regularly cleaned with a focus on high touch surfaces to limit the risk of transmission of COVID-19 infection.
- Optimized ventilation: the meetings venue 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 whether the said exposure resulted in COVID-19 infection. Self-quarantine is undertaken while closely observing one's health for symptoms of COVID-19. Self-quarantine can be undertaken at home or at your hotel accommodation.
- Isolation refers to the 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.
- The CMS Secretariat will not be in a position to provide financial assistance to participants testing positive for COVID-19 and hence having to isolate or self-quarantine. Obtaining travel insurance that covers quarantine or hospitalisation in case of COVID-19 is strongly recommended.
- Participants who received a personalised letter of invitation from the Council of Europe will be covered by a CHARTIS insurance policy. In case of illness, including COVID infection, the CHARTIS insurance policy covers the additional medical costs that are not covered by the traveller's personal insurance, including costs related to modification of travel, accommodation and subsistence in case of mandatory quarantine.

Self-monitoring after in-person Meetings

Following the conclusion of in-person meetings, participants are expected to monitor their health closely for a period of 14 days. It is important to watch out for development of fever or any other COVID-19 symptoms.

Additional COVID-19 Information links

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