

Spinal Injuries Association Special Events

COVID-19 Safety and Security

With the government announcements earlier on in the year regarding a post-lockdown world, we are all very excited by the prospect of seeing you as guests at our amazing special events. However, we are very aware that people will be understandably concerned about attending occasions with large numbers of guests – particularly at events where many the audience are considered ‘clinically vulnerable, or, extremely clinically vulnerable’ to the effects of COVID-19.

Bearing this in mind we have put together some best practice guidelines about how we can mitigate as much risk as we can to attendees – please note this will be under **constant review** considering the nature of the situation.

As you know our first safety measure was to delay our events. The events resumed in September 2021 to help further reduce any risks and allow the vaccine programme to be rolled out. Although we cannot ensure a virus-free environment and fully cancelling out any risk associated with attending a public event, please rest assured your safety is paramount to the Spinal Injuries Association. Below are the steps we will take at events (depending on current guidelines) to ensure that events are as COVID-19-secure as possible.

- We expect guests to take a lateral flow test prior to attending the event.
- We expect guests who are displaying any symptoms (defined [here](#)), or who have been in contact with anyone who is displaying symptoms, to stay at home. Additionally, we will require attendees to not attend the event if they have had direct contact with an individual diagnosed with or suspected to have COVID-19 in the past 14 days.
- We may reduce the capacity of the event to ensure we follow the current social distancing measures (ensuring that maximum capacities are set to ensure social distancing)
- We may take your temperature on arrival and ask you to sign into the NHS track and trace app.
- The event will be a handshake-free meeting – and we will promote ‘non-contact’ networking throughout our events.
- Some SIA staff with ‘guest facing roles’ along with the venue staff may wear face masks.
- There will be a designated member of staff at each event that will assess covid risks.
- There will be hand sanitiser around the venue, we encourage all guests to also wash their hands thoroughly when necessary.
- The event space will be thoroughly cleaned before, during (where possible) and after the event.
- We will encourage contactless payments where possible.
- And we will limit cash bars, and work with venue staff to aid social distancing throughout the event.

With booster vaccinations now occurring at rapid pace across the country, we are very hopeful that we will have the opportunity to run events 'as normal' in the very near future. However, we will refer to the points above - along with other government guidelines – to govern our approach and to help keep our guests as safe.

Please note as an organisation we can do what we can to reduce the risk, but it is also event attendee's responsibility to adhere to these policies to keep everyone as safe as possible.

If you have any feedback or concerns (before, during and after your event) please contact event organiser Laura Griffiths on l.griffiths@spinal.co.uk or 01908 732 156.

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