

26 March 2022

Dear MARC Conference Attendee:

The situation regarding COVID has changed significantly since we distributed the MARC XII COVID Safety Plan two months ago. Luckily, things have drastically improved, with COVID infection rates in Hawaii County, where Kailua-Kona is located, dropping to a 7-day moving average of only 8 cases per day for the entire island. The low infection rate has led the State, County, and King Kamehameha's Kona Beach Hotel to eliminate nearly all COVID-related safety requirements and restrictions, all consistent with current guidance from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). This includes:

- All COVID-related mandates for the County of Hawaii, including the requirement for large event COVID Safety Plans were rescinded on 28 February 2022
- The State of Hawaii allowed the indoor mask mandate to expire 25 March 2022, and masks are no longer required indoors, even for large events
- The State of Hawaii ended the Safe Travels Program 25 March 2022, eliminating pre-travel testing and registration requirements for visitors arriving from the U.S. Mainland.

Note that for our international participants, there are still COVID vaccination and testing requirements in force for entry into the U.S. Guidance can be found at the website:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/international-travel/index.html>

Consistent with these recent policy changes and guidance from CDC, we have decided to eliminate our MARC XII specific COVID Safety Plan and will no longer require masks for indoor activities or proof of vaccination to participate in MARC XII. However, we absolutely welcome those who choose to wear masks for any or all MARC XII events, indoor or out.

It is still a good idea to bring masks to Hawaii and carry them with you, as they are still required for air travel, and individual business may still require masks for entry.

Finally, we would like to remind everyone that while eliminating the MARC XII COVID policy is consistent with current Hawaii County, State of Hawaii, and CDC guidance, the organizers of MARC cannot fully eliminate all risks posed by COVID. Ultimately you are responsible for your own safety. We also ask that you be considerate of other attendees, and if you are experiencing any COVID symptoms we ask that you not attend MARC events. We are able to assist with arranging medical care for COVID or any other medical conditions while at MARC.

If you have any questions regarding COVID safety at MARC XII or anything related to this communication, please contact Steve LaMont, MARC XII Conference Chair, at lamont@lanl.gov, or +1 505-231-4354.

Respectfully,



Dr. Stephen P. LaMont
MARC XII General Chair