

# 2022 *FIRST*® Robotics Competition Iowa Regional COVID Policies

March 9, 2022



The Iowa Regional Planning Committee and *FIRST* recognize the health and safety of *FIRST* teams, volunteers, and staff are our top priority. Decisions regarding event planning are made based on the guidance and policies as established by public health officials, the University of Northern Iowa and in the spirit of Gracious Professionalism®.

Gracious Professionalism is part of the ethos of *FIRST*. It's a way of doing things that encourages high-quality work, emphasizes the value of others, and respects individuals and the community. Showing respect for the health and safety of all participants at the event - team members, volunteers, event staff and visitors - exemplifies the spirit of Gracious Professionalism.

Teams and volunteers have questions about the event and we are sharing information we know at this time. Information will be updated as it becomes available, so check back for updates.

## Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

- Face coverings: Face coverings are recommended, but not required, for all attendees in all indoor event areas. Unvaccinated individuals are encouraged to continue wearing face coverings when they cannot practice physical distancing. Attendees may choose to wear a face covering at any time. If you are immuno-compromised, masks are highly recommended. Learn more here (<https://www.cdc.gov/>) about how to protect yourself.
- All participants are expected to bring their own personal safety glasses since there will be limited on-site availability. Team should bring their own safety glasses cleaning supplies. Teams are expected to comply with all safety measures included in the *FIRST* Safety Manual.

## Venue Entry & Pit Restrictions

- The Iowa Regional pit and match viewing areas are very spacious and provide opportunities for attendees to physical distance. The committee is not limiting venue or pit access. We are counting on attendees to demonstrate Gracious Professionalism by physical distancing.

## Daily Health Screening

- Do not come to the event if you are ill or if you have been in contact with someone who is ill. A sample health screening is available at [cdc.gov](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html). (full link: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>)

## Teams

- Teams need a plan to handle illnesses that may arise during the event. Teams must follow their sponsoring organization's guidelines for student/adult ratio during isolation.

## Physical Distancing

- Whenever possible avoid close contact with others by maintaining a distance of 6 feet or more.
- Dedicated locations for robot inspections will be provided to help reduce crowding in team pits.
- Teams are encouraged to allow extra space between individuals and teams in the stands and eating areas.
- The traditional high five line during award ceremonies will not take place.
- An additional area will be provided to the volunteers during meals to allow more physical distancing.

- The student National Anthem choir will not take place this year.

### **Cleaning**

- Frequent hand washing with soap and water or hand sanitizer is encouraged.
- Hand sanitizer stations will be supplied throughout the facility.
- The University of Northern Iowa custodial teams will continue to clean and disinfect campus in accordance with CDC Guidelines utilizing disinfectant products from the EPA List N that are listed as effective against COVID-19.

### **Vaccinations**

- The Iowa Regional Planning Committee does not require event attendees to be vaccinated. *FIRST* believes that the best path toward ending the COVID-19 pandemic—and having a successful season—is through vaccination. *FIRST* strongly recommends everyone who is eligible consult with their physician and be fully vaccinated against COVID-19, with booster shots if applicable, prior to attending the event.