

SAL COVID Protocol for NYC Climate Week and COP28, as of May 31, 2023

Assuming the prevalence of COVID is no higher in September and then again in December than it is now, we will follow the protocol below.

To attend NYC Climate Week or COP28 in person, you will need to do the following:

- Take a COVID test immediately before leaving home to travel to New York or Dubai. A self-test is fine. If your result is positive, please do not come. Please send notice that you have taken the test and received a negative result to Randy Karr for New York, and Janet Kabue for Dubai.
- You must have received at least one vaccination against COVID. We encourage you to update your vaccination (to the extent possible in your country) but will not require it.* We also advise a flu vaccination for those who can get it.
- Send us any medical information that could indicate you are at increased risk from COVID—so we can think about you and the whole group.
- Inform us about your vaccination status. We will share that information with the delegation so we all have the information about one another's vaccination status.

We will test daily and mask when in close quarters (crowded bus or subway). We will bring a supply of tests (let us know if you can help), face masks, hand sanitizer, and an air purifier to New York and Dubai. We will use the air purifier at all times in our meeting room.

If the prevalence of COVID increases, SAL leadership, in consultation with Tim, will decide whether or not SAL will hold our events in-person

in New York and/or Dubai. If we decide that we will attend as a delegation despite a heightened risk, we will ask each delegate to discharge and consider for themselves again whether they will attend. We would like for each delegate to consider now whether they intend to participate in-person if SAL decides to attend in-person, despite heightened COVID risk. Of course, you may change your mind later, but please do discharge and think about it now.

*An RCer who is an epidemiologist said the following to us on May 30.

“Vaccination, as before, reduces the risks of severe infection, hospitalization, and death. Vaccination more than 6 months prior to travel does not provide these protections. It takes approximately 3 weeks for a vaccine dose to fully protect against infection.

'Fully vaccinated' really means 'vaccinated with the most recently formulated vaccines.' The virus is changing rapidly, and the best current vaccines in use are not yet formulated to disarm the latest mutations, but they do give extraordinary protection nonetheless. We note that vaccinations received in 2020 or 2021 are now functionally ineffective (due to virus mutation).

There are good 'mixed' vaccines now available in some places, with very effective responses, such as the 'bivalent' Moderna. These are an improvement on the vaccines used in previous years.