

Have all attendees (optometrists, OAs, OAO staff, exhibitors) received the three doses of the COVID vaccine?

All attendees are required to be **fully vaccinated**. The definition of fully vaccinated is 'two doses', but in our case we know that a majority of our Optometrists and generally attendees also have the third, booster.

How will the OAO check the vaccination status of attendees? Will attendees have to go through a screening each day of Symposium?

The Niagara Falls Convention Centre (NFCC) are staffing a full check-in for this. To access the venue, all attendees are required to show proof of vaccination upon arrival – as well general screening will occur. This means each delegate will be asked – do you have any of these symptoms (signage) will be referred to. Delegates will not be required to do individual online screening, it will be a more generalized daily screening.

Will attendees be required to wear a mask at all times during Symposium? What if someone refuses to wear a mask?

All attendees are required to wear a mask while in attendance, except for eating and drinking. All attendees have been told that this is a 'mask' event, if they refuse they will be asked to leave.

Will the OAO provide masks at Symposium?

OAO will have a supply of masks on site should a delegate forget to bring their own, or if a replacement is needed, I.e.: broken strap.

What protocols does the convention centre have in place to ensure the safety of delegates? Are convention centre staff vaccinated?

At the NFCC staff ARE vaccinated, masked and will adhere to 'above standard protocols' for safety during our event.

If someone starts to feel unwell, who do they tell?

If someone starts to feel unwell and is experiencing COVID-19 symptoms while onsite at the conference, we would ask that they leave immediately and email organizers at: oaocommunications@optom.on.ca or mghent@optom.on.ca to advise they have left the Symposium.

Following, please advise OAO (at the same email) the results of a PRC test.

OAO cannot ask delegates to do this test, but would appreciate knowing should COVID be found, so that attendees can be notified that they may have been exposed. Delegates should be aware that complete anonymity and confidentiality will be maintained.

Does the OAO have rapid antigen tests onsite in the event someone has COVID-related symptoms?

Yes.

Where is the closest location to get a PCR test?

To book an appointment at a centre providing PCR tests in the Niagara area:

According to [provincial guidance](#), publicly-funded PCR testing offered at Niagara Health is only available for high-risk individuals who are symptomatic and/or are at risk of severe illness from COVID-19, including for the purposes of confirming a COVID-19 diagnosis to begin treatment. This includes vulnerable populations and workers in the highest risk settings **such as healthcare workers**, police officers, fire fighters, paramedics and other emergency responders.

NOTE: When you call to book an appointment for a PCR test please be sure to identify as a **healthcare worker**.

For all information about Centre's in the Niagara Health region please visit [Niagara Health COVID testing](#)

Locally there is a **Shoppers Drug Mart that is open 24/7** that does PCR testing.

Shoppers Drug Mart

6565 Lundy's Lane
Niagara Falls, Ontario L2G 1V1

Phone: [905-354-3845](tel:905-354-3845)
Email: asdm799@shoppersdrugmart.ca

What happens if someone tests positive for COVID during Symposium?

If someone tests positive for COVID during Symposium they will be asked to leave and return home and report any positive results of a PCR test to OAO, in order for organizers to advise delegates of potential exposure. Please advise by email at: oaocommunications@optom.on.ca or mghent@optom.on.ca

What if someone tests positive for COVID after Symposium?

If someone tests positive for COVID upon returning home from Symposium they should report it to OAO so that OAO can advise delegates that there was a reported case. Please advise by email at: oaocommunications@optom.on.ca or mghent@optom.on.ca

How will the OAO inform attendees that they may have been in contact with someone who tested positive?

OAO will send a notice by eblast using the email address that delegates registered with.

What protocols do hotels / locations for sponsored social events have in place to ensure the safety of attendees?

Most venues are maintaining the [provincial guidelines](#) so will not necessarily have the same level of safety protocols as OAO is adhering to at the NFCC. Stratus Winery has indicated servers will be masked.