



FIRST®

MID-ATLANTIC

**COVID-19 Health and Safety Policy
For the 2022 *FIRST* Robotics Competition Season**

Approved by the FIRST Mid-Atlantic Board of Directors February 8, 2022

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To the *FIRST* Mid-Atlantic Community

FIRST Mid-Atlantic (FMA) recognizes that the health and safety of *FIRST* teams, volunteers and staff must be our top priority. Our policies in this document align our events with guidelines from state and county health departments, the CDC and local school districts regarding COVID-19. Decisions regarding event planning are made based on the guidance and policies established by community and public health officials along with venue administrations, 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. These policies may be more stringent than the precautions that your team or family observe, but the large number of attendees at the competitions require a higher level of mitigation efforts. *Showing respect for the health and safety of all participants at the event - team members, volunteers, and event staff - exemplifies the spirit of Gracious Professionalism*®.

When looking to the 2022 *FIRST* Robotics Competition, FMA wants to make every effort to allow teams and all of their students to participate at in-person events. While every effort will be made to accommodate as many team members as possible at events, changes to the below plan may occur as the COVID-19 landscape evolves. If any changes to an event are needed, Team Leads and assigned volunteers will be notified accordingly.

Please pay special attention to the COVID-19 vaccination requirements and process for the FMA District Championship at Lehigh University outlined later in this document.

Up-to-date COVID-19 event information will be posted on our website, www.midatlanticrobotics.org/covid-19.

Good luck teams and we'll see you at the competitions!

FIRST Mid-Atlantic Board of Directors
FMA FRC Program Committee
FMA Local Event Coordinators

Plan Summary

Event Length	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standard 2-Day District Events (Friday Load-In) • Standard 3-Day District Championship
Judging	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At Event
Teams per Event	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Up to 40 (District Event) / Up to 60 (District Championship)
Team Size/Attendance Limitations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None • All team participants (student and mentor/coach) must be registered on the Team Roster in the <i>FIRST</i> Registration System.
Public Attendance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No public attendees (see page 8) permitted in the venue
Face Masks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Required for all in attendance
Health Screening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Team Health Attestation Form submitted by coach/mentor • Volunteers required to submit health attestation form
District Event Vaccination Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Team Participants are not required to be vaccinated for COVID-19. • All FMA Assigned Volunteers and FMA Staff must be fully vaccinated for COVID-19.
District Championship Vaccination Requirements	<p>ALL attendees of the District Championship are required to be fully vaccinated for COVID-19 in accordance with Lehigh University policy.</p>
Pit Size/Spacing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standard 10ft x 10ft Pits • Spacing will be maximized as venue layout allows
Safety Glasses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teams will be responsible for bringing and providing safety glasses for everyone on their roster • Small number of safety glasses will be made available to volunteers and any sponsor/VIP attendees
Volunteers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standard Volunteer numbers for district events • All FMA Volunteers are required to be fully vaccinated for COVID-19
Cleaning/Sanitization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sanitizing Wipes will be located in each driver station for team use • Hand Sanitizer stands will be set up throughout the event • Field Cleaning will occur prior to the start of each event day and throughout the day as necessary

Face Masks

Face masks are required for all event staff, students, coaches, mentors, volunteers and attendees (despite vaccination status) and should always be worn in all event areas. Masks may be temporarily removed to accommodate eating and drinking in designated areas only.

Quality well fitting masks such as 3-Ply Surgical Masks (ASTM Level 3), KN95, KF94, FFP2 or N95 from reputable vendors are strongly encouraged.

- Everyone is required to bring their own mask
 - FMA will have a limited number of single-use masks available for exceptional circumstances
- Masks should [fit well](#) and be worn completely over the nose and mouth at all times
- Face Shields, Bandanas, Scarves, Ski Masks, Balaclavas, Single Layer Gaiters and masks with exhalation valves are **NOT** considered effective face coverings for mitigating the spread of COVID-19. *FIRST* Mid-Atlantic will ask you to use an alternate or one of the masks provided by FMA instead.

If you have had issues with safety glasses fogging up, it is suggested that you evaluate alternate masks with a better fit, specifically eliminating exhaled air escaping near your nose. Some volunteers have had success with anti-fog coatings or wipes, such as [these](#).

Safety Glasses

FMA will not be providing safety glasses to team members at events. Teams will be responsible for bringing and providing safety glasses for all members on their roster.

A small number of safety glasses will be made available to volunteers and any sponsor/VIP attendees that are known to be in attendance for the event. However, it is recommended that volunteers bring their own safety glasses. Safety glasses distributed to volunteers or any sponsor/VIP attendees will not be reused.

Safety glasses must be worn at all times in the pits and around the competition field.



Vaccination Requirements

FIRST Mid-Atlantic **strongly** encourages all event participants who are both eligible and able to get a COVID-19 Vaccination and booster. FMA will follow state and local guidance on vaccination requirements for all team participants, if any. **If vaccinations are required, FIRST Mid-Atlantic will not offer religious or medical exemptions.**

More information about the safety and effectiveness of COVID-19 vaccines can be found at the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) and the [World Health Organization](#) website.

District Events

FIRST Mid-Atlantic is not currently requiring COVID-19 vaccination for FRC Team Participants on the team roster at our 2-Day district qualifying events March 4 through April 3, 2022.

All event participants are strongly encouraged to be [fully vaccinated and up to date \(boosted if eligible\)](#) prior to the event. Please be advised that a person is considered fully vaccinated 2 weeks after they have received the final dose in the primary series of a COVID-19 vaccine.

FMA District Championship at Lehigh University

[In accordance with Lehigh University Policy](#), all attendees of the FMA District Championship April 7 through April 9, 2022 **are required to be fully vaccinated**. Proof of vaccination must be provided prior to the start of the FMA District Championship. A person is [considered fully vaccinated](#) 2 weeks after they have received the final dose in the primary series of a COVID-19 vaccine. The last dates an individual can start their vaccination primary series to be fully vaccinated by the FMA District Championship are listed in the table below.

Vaccine	Last date to start vaccination
Pfizer-BioNTech	March 2, 2022
Moderna	February 23, 2022
Johnson & Johnson	March 23, 2022

To comply with the Lehigh University Policy, FMA will provide each registered District Championship Team Lead Mentor a District Championship specific Team Vaccination Attestation Form. This form will require the Lead Mentor to attest that all individuals listed on their team



roster and in attendance at the District Championship are fully vaccinated. Individual, specific proof of vaccination will not be collected for team individuals.

Team Leads will be provided the necessary forms on the Monday following the Bensalem and Montgomery District events at the latest, and as needed to any subsequent teams added to the team list after Monday, April 4th.

Completed Team Vaccination Attestation Forms must be returned to FMA via e-mail at teamsupport@midatlanticrobotics.org **by 12PM on Wednesday, April 6, 2022.**

Volunteers

All volunteers **must be fully vaccinated** for COVID-19 to be assigned in a role at **all** FMA events. All *FIRST* Staff, FMA board members or FMA staff attending events are also required to be fully vaccinated.

Volunteers will be able to provide proof of vaccination via email, via this [COVID-19 Proof of Vaccination Form](#), via the [Electronic Consent and Release Form](#), via a video call, or other ways that can be discussed and decided upon with the volunteer. Volunteers can contact our Senior Volunteer Coordinator, Ali Marinari (amarinari@midatlanticrobotics.org), with any questions.

Volunteers will not be assigned to a role until proof of vaccination has been provided.

Sponsors

Sponsor representatives who are confirmed with FMA to be in attendance at an FMA event **must be fully vaccinated** for COVID-19.

Event Entry Requirements/Process

Teams

At all FMA-FRC events, a copy of your team roster, from the *FIRST* Registration system, **is required**. Your team roster must be turned in to Pit Administration upon arrival to the event or you will not be allowed to check-in. If any team members (student or mentor) did not complete the electronic consent and release forms through the *FIRST* system, paper copies must be turned in at every event you attend. Your team roster must include all students and mentors, as these are the only individuals allowed from your team to attend the event.

Along with your Team Roster, the Team Health Attestation Form needs to be turned in at **every event**. Team Mentors should check and attest that team members in attendance at the event do not have any COVID-19 symptoms or are sick. After a team's initial check-in and completion of the Team Health Attestation Form, team mentors should self-attest **each morning** that no team members in attendance are experiencing any illness or symptoms. There will be a line on the Team Health Attestation Form, affirming that you will check and attest that all team members in attendance at the event do not have any COVID-19 symptoms or are sick each day of the competition, although only 1 form will be turned in.

FMA provided attendee wristbands will not be required unless limits on team size are required to be implemented.

Volunteers

All assigned volunteers for an event will be required to turn in the Volunteer Health Attestation Form each day of the event.

Upon checking in each day, volunteers will receive event specific identification to identify event volunteers. This identification must be visible at all times and cannot be shared with other individuals. Individuals identified without this identification will be asked to leave the event.

Public Attendance

At this time, event attendance will be limited to those teams that are competing, members of competing teams per the team roster, assigned volunteers, *FIRST* Staff, FMA staff/personnel/Board of Directors, venue staff and volunteers, and confirmed sponsor/VIP attendees only.



The FMA video streaming system will be utilized at all FMA events to allow for non-attendees to view the competition. Events will be broadcast on the FMA YouTube channel, which can be found at www.youtube.com/c/midatlanticrobotics.

General Event Safety & Cleaning

Pit Size and Spacing

Pits will be the standard 10'x10'x10' size, unless otherwise communicated to teams by the Event Coordinator. The event space will be maximized as venue layout allows, to allow for as much distancing as possible.

Cleaning and Sanitization

Sanitizing Wipes will be located in each driver station for teams to use as they deem necessary.

Hand Sanitizer stands will be set up throughout the event.

Field Cleaning will occur prior to the start of each event day and throughout the day as necessary.

Policy Compliance

Any person participating in a *FIRST* Mid-Atlantic event is required to abide by this COVID-19 health and safety policy, the [FIRST Code of Conduct](#), and any additional local safety precautions discussed at the event.

If a team member (or multiple team members) are non-compliant with this policy, penalties up to and including yellow and red cards, may be given to the team in accordance with the 2022 FRC Game Manual and rule H201.

Non-compliance by any event attendee, especially event volunteers and staff, may result in removal from the event and being barred from future participation in *FIRST* and *FIRST* Mid-Atlantic activities.

Policy Changes

As we've seen with this pandemic, this policy and guidelines may change with little notice. Changes may occur at specific events or be implemented across all FMA events. All impacted teams and volunteers will be notified via email with any changes that will be implemented.

Examples of ways in which this policy may change, both less restrictive and more restrictive are given in the table below.

Event Restrictions Relax	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public attendance allowed at events
Additional Limitations Imposed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limits to team size (minimum 10, 2 must be adults) Switch to remote judging Reduction in volunteer numbers at events

If drastic changes are required to the season, there are provisions to switch district events to 1-day events with 20 teams max in attendance. There would be two 1-day events at each event site, accommodating all teams originally registered for the 2-day events on one of the days. This event structure is a last resort for FMA and we currently plan to maintain standard 2-day events if at all possible. More details on the single day events can be found [here](#) and referenced in this [FRC Blog Post](#).

Event Cancellation

If an FMA event is cancelled, both team contacts in the *FIRST* Registration system for all registered teams at the event will be notified via email. All assigned volunteers will also receive an email informing them of the cancellation.

If the event is less than 12 hours from doors opening to teams or the event is in process, every effort will be made to contact one of the team contacts via phone in a timely manner. Please make sure your phone number listed in the *FIRST* Registration system is one that you have access to (i.e. a cell phone number instead of a school phone number).

Subsequent information regarding the consequences of an event cancellation on the 2022 FMA-FRC season will be communicated to teams as soon as it is available. Monetary compensation for cancelled events that are not able to be rescheduled is the purview of [FIRST Headquarters](#). Questions or comments on refund policies should be directed to customerservice@firstinspires.org.