

# MDSC2023: COVIDSafe Plan

**Event Name:** MD Student Conference (MDSC)

**Venue:** Marvel Stadium, 740 Bourke Street, Docklands VIC 3008

**Dates:** Monday 26th June - Thursday 29th June

**Times:** 8:00 - 16:30

**Who:**

- *Subject Co-ordinator:* Dr Justin Bilszta, [jbilszta@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:jbilszta@unimelb.edu.au)
- *Co-Convenors:* Manasha Kumarasiri and Alison Edsell, [convenors@melbournemdconference.org.au](mailto:convenors@melbournemdconference.org.au)
- *Events Manager* (responsible for COVID safety): Madeleine Wilson, [events@melbournemdconference.org.au](mailto:events@melbournemdconference.org.au), 0402 714 066
  
- *Delegates* = Melbourne Medical School students
- *Guests* = Speakers, demonstrators and sponsorship representatives invited to participate in the conference

Marvel Stadium's COVID-Safe Plan: <https://marvelstadium.com.au/covid-safe-plan/>

MDSC2023 COVID-Safe Plan will be based on the current University of Melbourne COVID-Safe Plan: <https://www.unimelb.edu.au/coronavirus/covidsafe-plans>

## 1. REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICIPATION

### 1a. Vaccination

- Vaccination proof is not mandatory at Marvel Stadium.
- Delegates:
  - As all MDSC delegates are students of the Melbourne Medical School, the vaccination status of each student has already been verified through the faculty. All students have either received a full course of vaccination with a booster, or have a valid medical exemption.
- Guests are not required to prove vaccination status.

## 2. PROTECTIVE MEASURES DURING THE CONFERENCE

### 2a. Communications

- Welcome Email sent to all MDSC delegates before the conference will contain advice regarding COVIDSafe protocols, including:
  - *Complete a symptom self-assessment prior to leaving home everyday. Do not come to the conference if you are unwell, even with very mild symptoms.*
  - *Maintain 1.5 metres distance from others during the event, where possible.*

- *Do not come to the conference if you are required to isolate or quarantine for any reason and/or you are awaiting results of a COVID-19 test.*
- *Let a member of the Organising Team know immediately if you become unwell during the conference*

### **2b. Face Coverings**

- Face coverings are encouraged for all guests and delegates for their own safety, but are not compulsory
- Face masks are required in the following circumstances:
  - If the delegate or student has been identified as a close contact
  - If a local risk assessment has determined this is necessary
  - If the delegate or student has any COVID-19 symptoms
- A limited supply of face masks will be made available at the registration desk

### **2c. Rapid Antigen Testing**

- RAT kits will be available at the registration desk, free on request by any delegate or guest.
- MDSC2023 recommends doing a RAT test if the delegate or student is identified as a close contact or develops any COVID-19 symptoms.
- If there is a confirmed or suspected COVID-19 case at MDSC2023, RAT kits will be provided to any delegate or guest who was in close contact with the case, as identified by attendance lists.

### **2d. Hand Hygiene Practices**

- Hand sanitiser is available throughout the stadium on all levels, provided by Marvel.
- Delegates will be encouraged to practise hand hygiene regularly, including before/after food and handling shared equipment.

### **2e. Social Distancing and Ventilation**

- Delegates and guests are encouraged wherever possible to maintain a physical distance of 1.5m between themselves and others.
- There is adequate space to achieve social distancing during break and lunch times, with access to the stadium seating area.
- As per Marvel Stadium's COVID-Safe Plan, all public amenities within the building including but not limited to; Bathrooms, Parents Room, Sensory Room, Prayer Room have been considered and to ensure they operate in a COVIDSafe manner

### **2f. Catering**

- Catering will be provided at multiple locations throughout the inner concourse to prevent crowding and to facilitate social distancing.
- As per Marvel Stadium's COVID-Safe Plan, the catering provider Delaware North is responsible for all catering operations within the stadium. A number of initiatives will be adopted throughout the stadium including all outlets being cashless, additional cleaning and sanitisation and incorporation of social distancing.

## **2g. Cleaning and Ventilation**

- Cleaning by MDSC2023 committee members and volunteers
  - Equipment used in multiple workshops will be cleaned and sanitised between sessions by the Organising Team.
  - Session leaders and volunteers will clean the rooms after each session.
- Cleaning by Marvel Stadium's cleaning contractor, Quayclean
  - Quayclean is responsible for the cleaning, sanitisation and hygiene regimen for all events.
  - Enhanced airflow and improving air circulation is present throughout the stadium.
  - A high touch-point cleaning schedule has been established.

## **3. MANAGEMENT OF CASES**

### **3a. Contact Tracing**

- Attendance at MDSC2023 will be tracked by RFID scanners for keynote sessions, and participants lists will be available for each symposia session.
- In the event of a positive case:
  - Attendees will be notified by an in-app notification that they may have been exposed at the conference. They will be advised to monitor for symptoms and use their RAT kit as appropriate.
- If contact tracing is required, attendance records will be made available to the University of Melbourne Public Health Network.

### **3b. Notification of Positive Test Result**

- If there is a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19 at MDSC2023, the person should:
  - Notify Subject Co-ordinator: Dr Justin Bilszta, [jbilszta@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:jbilszta@unimelb.edu.au)
  - Submit a Short Leave of Absence to the Department of Medical Education
  - MDSC2023 Events Manager should be notified:  
[events@melbournemdconference.org.au](mailto:events@melbournemdconference.org.au)

### **3c. When an In-Person Attendee becomes Symptomatic**

- People with COVID-19 symptoms should not attend MDSC2023.
- Symptomatic attendees will be encouraged to contact a member of the Organising Team, who will escalate to the Events Manager.
- Each attendees' health and wellbeing is of utmost priority. If they are seriously ill or have difficulty breathing, 000 will be called.
- If the symptoms are mild, the individual will be offered the opportunity to complete a RAT test in an isolated room or outdoor area.
  - In the event of a positive result, the Organising Team will assist the person to arrange private transport from the venue to their residence.
    - The "Notification of a Positive Test Result" pathway (3b) will be initiated

- In the event of a negative result the individual will be offered another RAT test or advised to leave the conference venue and seek a PCR test.

#### **4. CHANGING PUBLIC HEALTH ORDERS**

##### **4a. Contingency Planning**

- In the event of a change in Public Health Advice issued by the Victorian Government, MDSC2023 will aim to convert to an online format, or hybrid with reduced in-person capacity.
- Contingency planning for each session was not performed for MDSC2023.

##### **4b. Change in Victorian Government guidelines**

- In the event of a change in Victorian Government guidelines, an update will be provided to delegates and guests advising on the new rules (for example, if mask wearing becomes mandatory).