



2021-2022 COVID Precautions

Updated Nov 3, 2021

In October, the NJ Odyssey of the Mind State Board of Directors met to discuss plans for holding in-person tournaments. While we are planning for in-person tournaments, we anticipate some things may be different this year than in years past.

NJ OotM is committing to follow all State and local guidelines regarding COVID for each of our tournaments. We expect guidelines to be different for each host school. We are working closely with our host schools to ensure our tournament preparations align with their current and future guidelines.

We will work out the details for our in-person tournaments in January and release that information by February 1st.

While we don't know exactly what the plans will be in January, we have several ideas and alternatives, depending on where guidelines are. Therefore, we have prepared a list of things that coaches and teams can do to prepare:

- **We may not be able to accommodate spectators.** Please prepare for the possibility that the team will be accompanied by only one coach and one assistant coach. The assistant coach would have the opportunity to film the team's performance to share with friends and family later.
- **Teams may be given a specific window of time to be in the building.** Teams may have their Long Term and Spontaneous competition times scheduled closely together to cut down on the amount of time they spend in the building. Please be prepared to unload right from vehicles(s) into staging, and please know in advance the team may not have the normal amount of time to "fix" things before they perform.
- **We may need to require masks or extra distance between judges and performances.** We highly recommend teams practice while wearing masks and at a distance, to make sure they can be heard and understood by the judges.
- **We might not be able to hold a traditional Awards Ceremony.** Please be prepared for a virtual Awards Ceremony to be broadcast following the tournament.
- **Attendees may need to show proof of vaccination or a recent negative test.** This may be required for judges, volunteers, and coaches. Please keep this requirement in mind as you consider who will be representing your team as Judges and Volunteers.
- **We may need to go fully virtual.** We're highly recommending teams prepare for a solution that can be filmed, and that teams film that solution prior to the tournaments.