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All attendees must agree to our policies, including COVID policies, to complete their registration.

The policy will appear as a mandatory checkbox on the registration form. These policies are subject to change and we will provide updates through our social media channels and on our website with as much notice as possible.

Effective March 1, the province of Ontario is taking additional steps to ease public health measures, including lifting capacity limits and proof of vaccination requirements. Businesses and other settings may choose to continue to require proof of vaccination.

**Furnal Equinox will continue to require proof of vaccination for admission to our event.**

We are committed to doing more than the minimum out of an abundance of caution, and with the knowledge that these efforts are an effective way to reduce risk to our community.

*Updated February 21, 2022 as follows:*

- Requirements for proof of vaccination, including for visitors from outside Canada;
- Clarification that masks can only be removed when eating/drinking in a food service area, and recommendations for masks;
- More details on operational changes we're making this year to keep you safe;
- Addition of an anti-abuse provision to protect staff and attendees.

*Updated March 9, 2022:*

- Added additional vaccines now authorized in Canada;
- Additional clarification around masking;
- Changes to capacity limits.

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In order to keep our attendees as healthy and safe as possible, our event will have the following policies in place:

**We will not tolerate willful violations of this policy, or abuse of those upholding it.**

The following actions *will* result in a ban from Furnal Equinox:

- Repeated and willful attempts to violate, undermine, or circumvent our COVID policies;
- Abuse, harassment, threats, or intimidation directed at an individual for following the policy;
- Abuse, harassment, threats, or intimidation directed at any FE volunteer, FE staff member, or venue staff member for their enforcement of this policy.

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## **Attendees must be fully vaccinated prior to attending the convention.**

Proof of vaccination, with the final dose in the series received no later than March 3, 2022, will need to be provided to attend Furnal Equinox.

Westin staff will support Furnal Equinox in checking proof of vaccination at various locations. They will issue you a wristband, which you must wear on your wrist, another visible area, or on a lanyard to receive your registration badge.

Canadian residents must provide an [enhanced vaccination certificate](#)<sup>1</sup> (on paper or digital) with a QR code, and show identification (e.g. driver's license, birth certificate, health card).

Vaccine certificates with QR codes are issued by all Canadian provinces and territories, and the Canadian Armed Forces.

Visitors from outside Canada must provide proof of vaccination (receipt or QR code) from their home country, and show their passport or NEXUS card as identification.

### *Vaccines authorized by the Government of Canada:*

- Pfizer-BioNTech (Comirnaty, tozinameran, BNT162b2) - 2 doses
- Moderna (Spikevax, mRNA-1273) - 2 doses
- AstraZeneca/COVISHIELD (ChAdOx1-S, Vaxzevria, AZD1222) - 2 doses
- Janssen/Johnson & Johnson (Ad26.COV2.S) - 1 dose
- Novavax Nuvaxovid - 2 doses
- Medicago Covifenz - 2 doses

### *Vaccines accepted by the Government of Canada for the purpose of travel to and within Canada - [please see full list here](#):*

- Bharat Biotech (Covaxin, BBV152 A, B, C)
- Sinopharm BIBP (BBIBP-CorV)
- Sinovac (CoronaVac, PiCoVacc)

## **Masks are required in all public spaces, including while in fursuit.**

Masks are required in the hotel and convention spaces at all times except as noted below. Fursuiters are also expected to wear masks — fursuit heads and other costume pieces are not

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<sup>1</sup> Enhanced vaccination certificates / QR codes may also be issued to those who meet defined exemption criteria (e.g. their physician has submitted proof of medical exemption to their public health unit), or are participating in a vaccine clinical trial. Screeners and staff will not accept other medical documentation (e.g. an exemption letter from a physician).

replacements for proper face masks.

Your mask must fit securely to the head and cover the mouth and nose. Face shields, neck gaiters, scarves, bandanas, and other items that don't fit securely are not acceptable on their own. Appropriate masks to use include N95 / KN95 respirators, medical masks (procedure or surgical masks), or non-medical masks.<sup>2</sup>

You may temporarily remove your mask when eating or drinking, or for other health and safety purposes (for example, administering medication). We ask you to keep your eating or drinking to food service areas (restaurants or convention-sponsored meals), designated eating areas (Dockside 2, tables in lounge, or soft seating in hotel), or water stations.

Performers at Opening and Closing Ceremonies, Dance Competition, Masquerade, and concert panels are permitted to remove their masks while performing or rehearsing, but must strictly maintain physical distancing of 2 meters at all times.

### **Capacity limits will be enforced.**

We will be making adjustments to convention spaces to follow social distancing guidelines. All event rooms, including dances, will be limited to **50%** of the posted room capacity.

Unless necessary for health and safety reasons, please respect these capacity limits and consider other options, like visiting at different times and participating in our programming through livestreaming (if available).

### **We will make other operational changes.**

Some of our usual practices will change to minimize risks to attendees:

- Protective barriers will be installed to protect you and attendee-facing staff at Registration, Dealers, and Operations.
- Our registration process is being revised to reduce queuing. Please follow signage and directions on site.
- Fans for drying and cooling will not be available in fursuit lounges. Face masks must still be worn in the lounge except when actively drinking water.
- Our Registration, Con Store, and Charity locations are discouraging use of cash. We encourage you to use credit or debit cards with contactless payment ("tap to pay"),

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<sup>2</sup> Government of Canada, "COVID-19 mask use: advice for community settings"  
<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/prevention-risks/about-non-medical-masks-face-coverings.html>

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and donate to our charity online through our fundraising page.  
Individual vendors may choose to accept cash at their discretion.

**Attendees with COVID-19 symptoms or positive test results at the convention must contact us.**

Prior to registering and at all times when entering convention space, attendees must be able to answer “No” to all of these questions:

- **In the last 5 days, have you experienced any of these symptoms?**  
*Fever and/or chills; cough or barking cough (croup); shortness of breath; decrease or loss of taste or smell; muscle aches/joint pain; extreme tiredness; sore throat; runny or stuffy/congested nose; headache; nausea; vomiting; and/or diarrhea.*
- **In the last 14 days, have you travelled outside of Canada and been told to quarantine?**
- **Has a doctor, health care provider, or public health unit told you that you should currently be isolating (staying at home)?**
- **In the last 5 days, have you tested positive for COVID-19?**
- **Do any of the following apply?**  
*You live with someone who is currently isolating because of a positive COVID-19 test; you live with someone who is currently isolating because of COVID-19 symptoms; you live with someone who is waiting for COVID-19 test results*
- **In the past 5 days, have you been identified as a “close contact” of someone who currently has COVID-19 or has symptoms of COVID-19?**

If you develop COVID symptoms at the convention, have a positive COVID test result, or you are informed that you have come into contact with someone diagnosed with COVID, please do not enter our convention space or attend any further programming at our event.

Contact us immediately at [covid@furnalequinox.com](mailto:covid@furnalequinox.com) or **1-855-46FURRY (1-855-463-8779)** and we will provide you with further instructions during or after the event. Please take a picture of your ID badge and any positive test documentation.<sup>3</sup>

Please self-isolate in your hotel room, or if you do not have a room at the hotel, return to your home with as little contact with others as possible, or follow your quarantine plan.

You must also tell your close contacts (including roommates) of your exposure. Please refer to the Ontario government’s guidelines on [“What to do if you’ve been exposed to COVID-19”](#) for further details.

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<sup>3</sup> Attendees contacting us through this means are eligible for a prorated refund of their registration, upon presentation of proof of positive test.

## **How to prepare for 2022**

### **Get vaccinated (and boosted)**

Vaccinations are widely available to the public, including to minors. Remember we are requiring all attendees to be fully vaccinated before attending the convention. The latest you should be fully vaccinated by is **March 3rd, 2022**.

If you are eligible for a booster dose (3rd dose), we encourage you to get it to enhance your protection against COVID-19.

### **Practice wearing a mask**

Practice properly wearing over your mouth and nose and breathing with a mask on, as you will be required to wear a mask when in public spaces of the event. Fursuiters should practice wearing a mask under their fursuit head.

### **Bring extra sanitation supplies**

While Furnal Equinox and the Westin Harbour Castle will provide public sanitation supplies (such as hand sanitizer), we encourage you to bring your own for personal use.

### **Practice good personal hygiene**

Make sure to wash your hands on a regular basis, especially after touching anything in the common areas. You can do this by washing for 20 seconds with soap and warm water; or use hand sanitizer on a regular basis. You should also use clean/fresh masks wherever possible and dispose of soiled ones.

### **Practice physically distant etiquette**

While furrries love to gather up close, we need to maintain a safe distance of at least 2 meters apart when socializing. Always ask people outside your household for consent before any close contact or reduced distance. You should also do the same in your hotel room and in any other hotel rooms you may visit over the course of your stay.

### **Research travel requirements from abroad**

If you're travelling from outside Canada, make sure you prepare for all checks and procedures that you need to follow while travelling. [Learn more about Canada's requirements for entry, including the ArriveCAN app.](#)

### **If you're not comfortable, let us know**

We are happy to support anyone who does not wish to attend this year's convention.

- Attendees for FE 2020 received a coupon code for registration in 2022. If you have not used it, it will be honoured in 2023.
- If you have registered for FE2022, you can request a refund up until March 3, 2022, or request a rollover of your registration to 2023.

### **Stay informed with Furnal Equinox**

Don't forget to follow our official channels on **Twitter**, **Facebook**, and **Telegram Announcements** where we will be sharing all updates.

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## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **General**

#### **What's the likelihood of COVID-19 at FE 2022?**

While we are planning to prevent spread as much as we can, we aren't able to guarantee that Furnal Equinox 2022 will be 100% COVID-free. There are many factors outside our control. That's why we're relying on every attendee to do their part to follow all of our policies so we can have a successful convention while staying safe.

#### **How often can we expect policies and guidelines to change?**

We will be updating all content and information regarding COVID-19 policies and guidelines when changes are made, whether they come from our team or government updates. We'll be updating this page as well as sending out messages through email and social media channels.

#### **What else is Furnal Equinox doing to minimize the risk of COVID-19?**

We will be implementing additional sanitation and preventative measures in high-traffic and high-contact areas, including areas such as Registration, Dealers Den, Lounge, and panel rooms. We will be working closely with our venue to clean and refresh all rooms and spaces on a frequent basis.

#### **In the event FE 2022 is postponed/cancelled again, what will happen?**

We hope we won't need to, but in the event the 2022 in-person event doesn't happen, we will continue to roll over registrations and provide support and instructions on how to change or cancel other bookings if necessary.

### **Registration**

#### **What does this mean if I rolled over my registration from 2020?**

All attendees with roll over registrations from 2020 received an email with a coupon code with instructions to register for FE 2022. If you did not receive the coupon, please let us know at [registration@furnalequinox.com](mailto:registration@furnalequinox.com). Coupon codes fully honour pre-registration pricing only.

#### **I cannot/do not feel comfortable attending FE 2022. Can I rollover my registration?**

If you did not use a coupon code from your 2020 registration, the code is valid for 2023. There is no need to email Registration.

If you registered for 2022 and wish to request a rollover, email [registration@furnalequinox.com](mailto:registration@furnalequinox.com) up until March 13, 2022.

#### **Can I request a refund on my registration?**

We will be processing refund requests for FE 2022 up until March 3rd, 2022. After that date, we

will only offer rollovers of registration to our 2023 event.

**What are the policies for minors related to these restrictions?**

We are allowing minors to attend our 2022 in-person convention, provided they are fully vaccinated. Minors of ages between 5 and 14 must be fully vaccinated by the time of convention, and must have a chaperone and all applicable permission forms. Minors between 15 and 17 must have all applicable permission forms, but do not require a chaperone.

Minors younger than 5 are not permitted at this time.

**Vaccines & Masks****What kind of proof is needed for vaccinations?**

Canadian citizens and residents must present an enhanced vaccine certificate (with a QR code), as well as ID such as a driver's license, health card, passport, or other photo ID. Vaccine certificates with QR codes are issued by all Canadian provinces and territories, and the Canadian Armed Forces.

Visitors from outside Canada must provide a vaccination passport with a QR code or receipt from their home country, and show their passport or NEXUS card as identification.

**How can I get vaccinated for COVID-19?**

COVID-19 vaccines are widely available. We recommend checking with your local public health unit for specifics, but here are a couple of resources we recommend:

- To book a vaccine through Ontario's vaccine portal, [click here](#)
- Book through [Shoppers Drug Mart](#), [Rexall](#), or other pharmacy locations near you
- <https://vaccinehunters.ca/> for other locations in Canada

**I do not wish to be fully vaccinated or wear a mask while in convention or public spaces, can I still attend?**

If you choose not to be vaccinated or follow the mandatory mask policy, you will not be able to participate in our in-person event this year. Our top priority is to make sure our attendees are as safe as possible while enjoying our convention.

**For medical reasons, I cannot receive a COVID-19 vaccine. How can I submit a request for a medical exemption?**

For those who have a legitimate medical reason for not receiving a vaccine, Ontario has a process for physicians to submit documentation to the local public health unit. Once approved, attendees receive a digital QR code that fulfills the "proof of vaccination" requirements. We require exemptions to be submitted through this process. Our team will not handle other



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requests or documentation presented at the convention.

We realize this may limit some attendees, however we are particularly interested in the safety of those attending our convention. We invite you to participate in our virtual events this year and plan to review this policy for future events when public health guidelines allow.

Please be advised that if you are planning to visit from outside Canada, you will not be admitted to Canada if you are not fully vaccinated.<sup>4</sup>

**For medical reasons, I cannot wear a mask. How can I submit a request for a medical exemption?**

Attendees who cannot wear masks are asked to please reconsider attending our in-person event at this time. We realize this may limit some attendees, however we are particularly interested in the safety of those attending our convention. We invite you to participate in our virtual events this year and plan to review this policy for future events when public health guidelines allow.

In-person attendees *are* permitted to temporarily remove their mask for health and safety reasons (e.g. to administer inhalers or medication as they may require, or minor medical distress), so long as it does not disrupt others.

If you are attending our in-person event and require accommodations, you may note it when you register online, or you can contact our Accessibility Department in advance of the event.

**Do I need to bring a negative COVID-19 test result to the convention?**

No, we do not require a negative COVID-19 test result to attend. However, we recommend actively self-monitoring your symptoms. Please do not attend the convention if you do not feel well.

If you are travelling from outside Canada, you will need to show proof of a negative test to enter the country. [Please see the government of Canada website for details.](#)

**Can I get a COVID test at the convention? Where can I get tested?**

Testing will not be available on-site. Publicly-funded COVID-19 PCR testing is presently limited in Ontario to individuals in high-risk settings.

Starting February 9, the Ontario government has started distributing rapid antigen test kits for home use throughout the province. [Learn more on how to obtain a kit on their website.](#)

If you are an international traveller and the next country you travel to (whether your home country, or a third country) requires testing for entry, we recommend that you book a test well in

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<sup>4</sup> <https://travel.gc.ca/travel-covid/travel-restrictions/answers/foreign-not-travel-exempt>

advance with a private pharmacy or laboratory that offers said service.

**How will Furnal Equinox protect my personal information/privacy when submitting legally-identifying information?**

Proof of vaccination will be verified using the secure [Verify Ontario app](#). We will not retain proof of vaccination.

Westin staff will support Furnal Equinox in checking your proof of vaccination using the app, and will issue you a wristband before you pick up your registration badge. The wristband and registration badge serve as your proof of vaccination through the event, so please keep them on your person in a visible manner.

All other personal and identifying information will be secured and stored in accordance with all privacy laws and regulations. Learn more about our privacy policy [here](#).