



COVID-19 Mitigation Policies and Process for 2022 NCAJ High School Mock Trial Regional Competitions

The NC Mock Trial Program looks forward to seeing you at regionals on Saturday, February 5, 2022!

For the safety and health of all attending, the NCMTP will adhere to and require the following precautions at the event.

Protocols may be relaxed or enhanced depending on the health situation and any requirements of specific courthouses in February.

STUDENTS/COACHES/OBSERVERS

Do NOT arrive at the courthouse sick.

Certification Requirement: Each teacher coach will be required to complete a certification about 36 hours before the competition (anytime between Noon on Thursday, Feb 3 and 8 am on Friday, February 4) indicating that no member of their official team(s) and no observers traveling with the team have cold-like symptoms or have recently tested positive for Covid-19. [Online certification form linked here](#) (Teachers: this form is mandatory, but please wait until Thursday afternoon/Friday morning to complete it.)

If any of your official team or observers arrive sick, they will not be permitted to stay and depending upon travel and exposure questions, your team may NOT be allowed to compete/stay and will forfeit the competition. We strongly encourage teams to be extremely mindful of this potential and to have a named alternate or alternates on the roster this year to avoid this issue as the competition nears. (Two named alternates per team will be allowed this year to help teams mitigate the risk of team illness.)

Observers (including coaches/advisors): The NCMTP will limit the number of observers each team can bring to competition in order to ensure appropriate social distancing in the gallery of the courtrooms. Beyond official team members (students and alternates listed on team rosters), each team is allowed no more than 10 observers; that number will include their teacher coach(es) and their advisor(s). Teacher coaches: we will require you to identify team observers in advance of competition and you must ensure your observers are prepared to certify to you that they do not have covid-19 symptoms. **If in the unlikely event that a courtroom is too small to accommodate this number of observers per team with social distancing, the number of observers per team may be limited further for that particular courtroom.*

Hand sanitizer: All teams are required to bring hand sanitizer for personal use throughout the day.

Food: Snacks and water will not be provided to teams this year. ****We encourage all teams to bring their own water and snacks****

Team check-in: Teams will know their team letters and Round I room assignments before arriving at the courthouse on Saturday. Teams are asked to travel to that room upon arrival at the courthouse; no need to wait in the hallway for your letter assignments this year. However, one teacher coach per team will be asked to check-in upon arrival; that representative will have to answer a verbal questionnaire (copy below) regarding their observers' and team(s)' health status.

Welcome address: Your Regional Coordinator(s) will offer a pre-recorded video address this year OR will stop by each courtroom to welcome participating teams and provide usual reminders.

Round II Assignments: Posted Round II room assignments and pairings will also be uploaded to a google folder (which will be accessible by all students and coaches); teams can go directly to that courtroom upon arrival.

Masks: Parents, students, coaches, and team observers must wear masks at all times when in the courthouse; no exceptions! Face shields are not considered to be appropriate.

Awards ceremony: Only mock trial students and their coaches (NO ADDITIONAL OBSERVERS) will be allowed to attend the awards ceremony during which the regional competition staff will announce the region's top two teams and hand out best witness and best attorney awards. Air fist bumps encouraged!

Timekeepers: Student timekeepers are asked to be mindful of social distancing from the jurors while simultaneously sitting where they can be seen by all parties.

JUDGES/JURORS/ON-SITE VOLUNTEERS

Orientation options: Round I volunteer judges and jurors will know their room / team pairing assignment before they arrive at the courthouse. After briefly checking in with the Regional Coordinator, they have the option to travel directly to that courtroom if not comfortable attending a group judge/juror orientation (*Access to a video volunteer orientation will be provided before competition.*)

Round II volunteers will be given access to a google folder for room assignment information. After briefly checking in with the Regional Coordinator, they have the option to travel directly to that room if not comfortable attending a group judge/juror orientation (*Access to a video volunteer orientation will be provided before competition.*)

Masks: All judge/juror/site volunteers will be required to wear masks at all time when inside the courthouse.

Teams' teacher coach representative will answer this question at on-site check-in the morning of Feb 5 :

Teacher coach,

You recently completed an online certification indicating that none of your official team members or observers have experienced the below list of symptoms in the last 48 hours and that none have tested positive for Covid-19 in the past 14 days. **Is this still the case today?**

fever or chills | cough | shortness of breath or difficulty breathing | fatigue | muscle or body aches | headache | new loss of taste or smell | sore throat | congestion or runny nose | nausea or vomiting | diarrhea