



COVID-19 Mitigation Policies and Process for 2023 NCAJ High School Mock Trial Regional Competitions

The NC Mock Trial Program looks forward to seeing you at Regionals on Saturday, February 4, 2023!

For the safety and health of all attending, the NCMTTP 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. 2nd and 8 am on Friday, Feb. 3rd) 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 NCMTTP will limit the number of observers each team can bring to competition and encourage 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 15 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, which is at the discretion of the Regional Coordinator.***

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 and to adhere to any and all courthouse requirements regarding them****

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: A Welcome Address will be held with team members and their identified observers, unless Courthouse requirements or the discretion of your Regional Coordinator(s) provide otherwise. If a welcoming address cannot be held, Regional Coordinator(s) 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: Masks are not required UNLESS it is the requirement of the Courthouse and the courthouse's general policy—Parents, students, coaches, and team observers must observe and follow courthouse requirements. If masks are a requirement, then they should be of a neutral and/or white color (N95 or other varieties). Masks should not display any team colors or mascots nor should they appear to give any indication of team representation. If masks are not required but a team member believes that for their own safety that they should wear a mask, then it is fine to do so.

Awards ceremony: An Awards Ceremony will be held with team members and their identified observers to present best witness and best attorney awards and for the announcement of the region's top two teams, unless Courthouse requirements or the discretion of your Regional Coordinator(s) provide otherwise. At a minimum, and subject to any courthouse requirements, team members and their coaches will gather for awards.

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 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 Q&A (*Access to a video orientation will be provided to judges and jurors before competition.*)

Round II volunteers will be given access to a google folder for room assignment information. After 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 Q&A (*Access to a video volunteer orientation will be provided before competition.*)

Masks: Masks are not required for judge/juror/site volunteers unless it is the requirement of the courthouse.

Teams' teacher coach representative will answer this question at on-site check-in the morning of Feb 4:

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