

WHO risk-based approach for a safe hybrid meeting



The following guidance will help ensure safe and successful participation in the seventy-third session of the WHO Regional Committee for the Western Pacific from 24 to 28 October 2022, in Manila, Philippines.

1. Hybrid session of the WHO Regional Committee for the Western Pacific

- The seventy-third session will be a hybrid meeting, with both in-person and virtual participation.
- Member State ministers of health and other senior representatives who can travel will participate in-person.
- To enable maximum Member State participation, representatives unable to attend in person will participate virtually and be supported to join colleagues in discussions taking place in Manila.

2. Risk-based approach

- WHO and the Government of the Philippines are working together to minimize risks of COVID-19 transmission by routinely assessing risks and employing risk-mitigation measures.
- As part of the risk-based approach, the situation at the venue and associated risks will be monitored closely, and risk-mitigation measures will be updated as the situation requires.

3. Principles

In order to mitigate the risks of COVID-19 transmission, general measures will apply for all in-person participants:

- All participants are required to be fully vaccinated, including a booster dose.
- The venue for the plenary session of the Regional Committee been set up to allow for proper physical distancing. As such, each delegation may have a maximum of eight representatives in person at the same time in the plenary.
- Masks must be worn at all times during the session and related events, except when eating and drinking.
- All participants, including Secretariat members, will be required to self-administer a rapid antigen test if they experience symptoms of infection. The Secretariat will provide two test kits to each participant so that can self-test in their hotel room.
- All participants, including Secretariat members, are required to report immediately to the Regional Staff Physician* should they experience symptoms.
- Reminders and prompts regarding hand hygiene will be displayed at the venue, with hand sanitizer widely available.
- The venue will ensure proper air circulation, as well as cleaning and sanitizing all areas, focusing on frequently touched surfaces.

4. Other measures to mitigate transmission risks

- Before travelling to the Philippines, participants will be required to register their health and vaccination status on the Philippine Government's One Health Pass. Please click on [this link](#) to register.
- Medical services will be available at the venue.
- Representatives are requested to inform the Secretariat if they develop symptoms or test positive for COVID-19 after leaving the Philippines.

* The Diamond Hotel clinic is located on the fifth floor. Dial "0" from a hotel phone for assistance.

The WHO clinic operates daily from 08:00 to 17:00 in room 202-A of the main building at the WHO Regional Office for the Western Pacific on United Nations Avenue, Ermita, Philippines. The WHO staff physician, Dr Lynne Marcia Bautista, can be contacted at baulista@who.int, and WHO staff nurse, Ms Yvonne Reyes can be contacted at reyesy@who.int. The WHO clinic can also be reached by calling or texting +63 918 913 4082.