

## COVID-19 and Convention FAQ

The following FAQs provide information on what to expect when you visit the 2022 SUMA Convention and Tradeshow. If you have questions we haven't answered, please contact the SUMA office at 306-525-3727 or email [events@suma.org](mailto:events@suma.org). We will continue to update this document as we receive questions.

### **Am I required to show proof of vaccination to attend Convention?**

No, delegates will no longer be required to show proof of vaccination to attend the 2022 SUMA Convention and Tradeshow.

### **Why is proof of vaccination no longer required?**

The SUMA Board of Directors is following the direction of the province with the removal of proof of vaccination.

### **Do I need to wear a mask at Convention?**

No. The SUMA Board of Directors is following the direction of the province and will no longer be requiring masking at the 2022 SUMA Convention and Tradeshow. However, Convention is a mask friendly event, and we encourage mask use while respecting individual choices regarding masks based on one's own risk assessment.

### **Will there be social distancing at Convention in Regina?**

Delegates are encouraged to social distance wherever possible and SUMA is working with the facility to allow for as much space as possible for delegates.

### **What cleaning and sanitization measures are in place at the Queensbury Convention Centre and the International Trade Centre?**

Enhanced cleaning and sanitization protocols will be in place at Convention, thanks to the Regina Exhibition Association Limited's (REAL) accreditation as a GBAC STAR compliant facility - the highest level of cleaning and disinfecting levels available.

### **What happens if I test positive for COVID-19 partway through the in-person event or feel unwell?**

If you test positive while attending Convention in Regina or feel unwell, please refrain from attending the rest of the event.

### **What if I am no longer comfortable attending Convention in person?**

We understand that the removal of proof of vaccination and masking requirements at Convention may concern delegates who have already registered to attend. For those who are uncomfortable attending in-person, SUMA is working to provide alternative options, including virtual debate and voting for elected officials.

Registration cancellations for the 2022 SUMA Convention and Tradeshow can also be made at any time for the small fee of \$50 per cancelled registration. Substitutions of delegates can be made at any time without cost.

### **What if I need to cancel my registration?**

Registrant cancellations for the 2022 SUMA Convention and Tradeshow can be made at any time. A \$50 cancellation fee will be charged per cancelled registrant to cover a small portion of costs incurred. However, substitutions of delegates can be made at any time without cost. Elected officials interested in switching from in-person to online can do so for the cost of \$50.

Additional event tickets purchased are non-refundable.

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### What are the virtual debate and voting options for elected officials?

Mayors and councillors who are unable to attend Convention in-person can register to participate online in the Resolutions, Election of SUMA President, and the SUMA AGM. Both voting and non-voting delegates will be able to watch the presidential speeches and vote for SUMA's next president. For Resolutions and the SUMA AGM, online voting and non-voting delegates can participate in debate, and voting delegates will be able to vote. A unique link to vote will be sent to all elected officials registered to attend Convention in-person or participate online. The cost to register as an online participant is \$50 per registration.

A livestream of these three sessions will be available to all SUMA members, including municipal administration. SUMA will also be livestreaming other select sessions at Convention 2022.

### How do I register for the online option?

Registering to participate online can be done using the 2022 SUMA Convention and Tradeshow registration system. The main contact for each municipality was sent an invitation with a link and password for the registration system in January.

When registering elected officials for Convention, there is now the option to register them as an online participant. The cost to participate online is \$50 per registrant. Elected officials already registered for Convention can switch from in-person to online for the cost of \$50. If payment for in-person registration has been made, a refund, minus the cost of online participation, will be issued. To switch a registration from in-person to online, contact the SUMA office by phone at 306-525-3727, or by email at [registration@suma.org](mailto:registration@suma.org).

### Is there an excursion at the in-person event?

In June 2021, when it was announced that convention would be moving to the spring for 2022 and beyond, we were excited about the possibility of better weather and being able to explore and enjoy the host city. We're still hopeful for better weather, but for the 2022 year, all Convention events will take place at the Queensbury Convention Centre and International Trade Centre to reduce locations and the chances of exposure to COVID-19.

### What is happening with the social events?

The 2022 SUMA Convention and Tradeshow will include the President's Banquet and Awards Ceremony, however the Welcome Reception has been cancelled for the 2022 year.

The Welcome Reception is designed for networking with appetizers, cash bar, a band, and of course, dancing. As this atmosphere is not conducive in preventing the spread of COVID-19, the Convention Planning Committee made the decision to cancel the event.

The President's Banquet and Awards Ceremony will take place on April 5, from 7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. This event is moving forward as delegates remain seated for the majority of the evening. Attendees at the President's Banquet are encouraged to remain at the same table throughout the evening event.