

COVID-19 Prevention & Rules of Conduct

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[DeepSec In-Depth Security Conference](#)

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This document provides a summary of COVID-19 health procedures and precautions for all participants of the DeepSec In-Depth Security and DeepINTEL conferences (including the trainings). Everything described in this document is applicable to any infectious disease (known or unknown).

Currently there are no regulations for events, but the precautionary measures outlined in this document are based on general health protection strategies. They can be applied to any infectious disease, or any other biological hazard. Protection measures also help persons with a weak immune system or undergoing special treatment. So please regard any precaution as a polite way of looking after people needing help.

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1. Introduction

The COVID-19 pandemic, also known as the coronavirus pandemic, has deeply impacted economics, society, daily life, and the routine in the workplace. The virus SARS-CoV-2 is the cause of the infectious disease. Given the research and the course of the infections since December 2019, COVID-19 will not disappear, because SARS-CoV-2 is able to mutate. There is also a new medical conditions called *Long COVID* which affects a part of the infected population. [?] Therefore, basic health protection has entered the routine of everyday life.

The world of events and conferences has changed, too. Meetings, lectures, and presentations have moved into the virtual world. The teleconference systems are booming. This technology works for many situations, saves time and travel. Events such as the DeepSec In-Depth Security Conference feature a lot more details than meetings or presentations. DeepSec is a platform for discussion, exchange of ideas, and the mathematically chaotic hallway track where people meet randomly without the distractions of the office or home office.

We have compiled everything you should know about our COVID-19 prevention policy. We have also compiled helpful links to information regarding COVID-19 in Austria. Please note that all of this information cannot replace professional medical advice. If you need to go into specifics, please consult trained medical persons. Detailed medical advice and in-depth information about COVID-19 can be found at the [Coronavirus web site of the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control \(ECDC\)](#).

2. Austrian Government and City of Vienna

There are no special regulations in place. The city of Vienna maintains an information web site called [COVID-19 information](#).

3. Travel

Travel is the most crucial point when it comes to DeepSec and DeepINTEL. For our on-site event we will need you in person in Vienna. We strongly recommend getting vaccinated before you attend our conference.

3.1. Getting to Vienna

Travel warnings and regulations are subject to change. We cannot keep up with all the updates. Please make sure that you check all regulations valid for your route to Vienna (and back). When in doubt, then check with your local authorities. We also recommend looking up information provided by the European Union and the WHO.

- [Travel and covid: rules for safe travel \(EU\)](#)
- [World Health Organization](#)

3.2. Public Transport in Vienna

Wiener Linien is Vienna's public transport operator and is responsible for some 180 underground, tram, and bus lines. Vienna's public transport agency Wiener Linien has no regulations regarding protection measures. We recommend using FFP2 masks when using public transport. Please make sure that you bring your own masks and face covering to Vienna. The public transport ticket sale stations and ticket machines do not sell masks and face coverings. There may be shops selling them (drug stores and pharmacies for example).

4. Personal Conduct

The US-American Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have published a guideline for preventing sickness. [1] These rules are valid for protection from all kinds of infectious diseases and bacteria.

- Wash your hands often
 - Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds especially after you have been in a public place, or after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
 - If soap and water are not readily available, use a hand sanitiser that contains at least 60% alcohol. Cover all surfaces of your hands and rub them together until they feel dry.
 - Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact
 - Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
 - Maintain a distance of more than 1.8 metres / 6 feet from other people. Austria has a 1.0 metre recommendation (an arm's length, give or take) for the minimal distance. More distance is better, of course.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a mask when around others
 - You could spread COVID-19 to others even if you do not feel sick (and even if you are vaccinated). There may be a lot of people around without symptoms.
 - The mask is meant to protect other people in case you are infected.
 - Continue to keep about 6 feet between yourself and others. The mask is not a substitute for physical distancing.
- Cover coughs and sneezes
 - Always cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze or use the inside of your elbow and do not spit.
 - Throw used tissues in the trash.
 - Immediately wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not readily available, clean your hands with a hand sanitiser that contains at least 60% alcohol.
- Clean and disinfect
 - Clean **and** disinfect frequently touched surfaces daily. Keyboards, touchscreens, and other tools are prime suspects of harbouring bacteria and viruses.¹
- Monitor your health daily
 - Be alert for symptoms. Watch for fever, cough, shortness of breath, or other [symptoms of COVID-19](#).
 - Take your temperature if symptoms develop.
 - If you notice symptoms during your stay in Austria or suspect that you have become infected, please avoid crowds of people and public transport. Isolate yourself and call the **health hotline at 1450** for further instructions.

Most importantly: If you feel sick, seek professional help. The Austrian-wide hotline can help you. We will also assist and call the hotline for you. Please note that we are legally obligated to report any suspected cases of COVID-19 (and other diseases of this kind).

¹Yes, there can be viruses on the outside of computers as well. These are more dangerous than the digital ones.

5. Conference Venue and Vienna

Currently neither the conference hotel nor DeepSec has to follow special regulations.

5.1. Protective Gear

We suggest wearing FFP2 masks during the whole conference (when at the conference location) whenever possible. To quote Din Djarin from the Star Wars series "The Mandalorian": This is the way.

We will provide masks for you, but you can bring your own. We recommend using FFP2 masks only.

5.2. Hotel

Our conference hotel has already adopted health protection measures when the [Pandemic H1N1/09](#) was declared back in 2009. All of the measures are in place for COVID-19 as well. Measures include:

- Masks and face coverings for employees (if needed)
- Monitoring of active COVID-19 cases (for reporting persons which may have had contact with infected guests)
- Physical distancing
- Regular disinfection of surfaces throughout the hotel

5.3. Coffee & Lunch Breaks

Coffee breaks will feature a standard buffet. The same goes for lunch breaks.

5.4. Air Conditioning

The conference hotel has an air conditioning system. It is responsible for regulating the temperature and the humidity of the rooms and the conference area.

- The air conditioning system can use fresh air from the outside. It can mix the air with fresh air or only use fresh air.
- The fresh air supply uses F7 filters suitable for offices, data centres, department stores, hospitals, food industry, and pharmaceutical / mechanic / electronic production.
- The exhaust air is filtered by F5 filters suitable for offices, data centres, department stores, hospitals, and the food industry.
- All fresh air outlets are situated at the ceiling of the rooms in order to have cooler air drop to the floor.

The F7 filters fulfil the specifications for high quality air environments. F7 to F9 is the class for hospitals, food industry, and room where fine dust or other substances can cause contamination. The filter specifications are described in [ISO 16890](#). During the conference we will ask the hotel to use only fresh air for the air condition system and disable mixing fresh air with exhaust air (if possible, setting depends on the decision of the maintenance team).

5.5. Ventilation

The conference hotel features very well ventilated air conditioning systems with fresh air supply. Exchanging stale air with fresh air is an important step to reduce aerosol particles in closed rooms. The room climate is required by regulations, because the conference hotel is partly a listed building.

In 2019 we did a measurement of the carbon dioxide (CO₂) levels in the DeepSec presentation tracks. The sensors monitored the concentration throughout the whole conference. During the 50 hours period which included the two full days of the DeepSec conference the CO₂ concentration never exceeded 800 ppm (parts per million). The number of attendees in each room was above 100 (the total number attendees of the conference was about 250). The CO₂ concentration is an indicator for added fresh air in ventilation systems. The table 1 shows levels of carbon dioxide and its relation to air quality.

| CO ₂ (ppm) | Air Quality |
|-----------------------|---|
| >2100 | Very bad air quality, heavily contaminated indoor air, ventilation required |
| 2100 - 1600 | Bad air quality, heavily contaminated indoor air, ventilation required |
| 1599 - 1100 | Mediocre air quality, contaminated indoor air, ventilation recommended |
| 1099 - 900 | Fair air quality |
| 899 - 700 | Good air quality |
| 699 - 407.4 | Excellent air quality |

Table 1: The table shows the carbon dioxide concentration in rooms and the corresponding air quality description (note that this table does not reflect the presence of other contaminants such as fine dust, NO_x, or SO₂). The CO₂ concentration is indicated in *parts per million* (ppm). The concentration of 407.4 was measured in 2018 as atmospheric level. [2]

We are aware that the CO₂ concentration is only a very generic indicator. Nevertheless we will keep monitoring the CO₂ levels during the conference, and we will instruct the conference hotel staff to maximise the fresh air supply for the air conditioning system. Additionally we will monitor the humidity at selected spots in the conference rooms. Generally a humidity of 40% to 60% is recommended for having a good air quality in office spaces.

5.6. Protective Gear for Attendees and Speakers

We have a fixed amount of FFP2 masks ready.

5.7. Seating Arrangements

We have changed the seating arrangements for the conference tracks and the trainings in order to enable more physical distancing. We have similar arrangements for the trainings.

5.7.1. Trainings

Depending on the number of attendees we will select an appropriate room for the training. We will also increase the number of breaks to ensure adequate air quality in the rooms.

5.7.2. Conference

The main conference tracks will feature less „community“ desks. Furthermore, we have reduced the number of seats in order to maintain a sufficient level of physical distancing during the presentations.

6. DeepSec Organisation and Staff

DeepSec and DeepINTEL are organised by the DeepSec GmbH and the Crowes Agency OG. Both companies form the backbone of the organisation. In addition we use volunteers and partners for on-site support such as conference staff, video recording, Internet service provision, and other services. All staff members, volunteers, and partners are registered and known to us personally.

6.1. Registration

The registration for DeepSec and DeepINTEL will implement physical distancing rules. We will have multiple queues where you can register. Furthermore we have linked our ticket shop to the on-site registration in order to speed up the registration process.

6.2. COVID-19 Officer and Prevention Plan

The Austrian tourism industry has created a COVID-19 certification. It consists of a course held by the Austrian Red Cross covering basic health protection, basic knowledge of virology, and measures to prevent infections. We have a designated COVID-19 officer (COVID-19 Information Officer, CIO, if you will) in order to make sure that we don't make mistakes. All decisions of the organisation team are checked by our COVID-19 officer who can overrule anything. Additionally, event organisers need to prepare a COVID-19 prevention plan. We have worked out a plan and the implementation.

6.3. Health Inspection and Protection of Staff

All our staff is fully vaccinated. We will test our staff for COVID-19 antibodies or virus protein fragments prior to the conference (see the appendix for a clarification of the COVID-19 tests available), if necessary. We want to make sure not to include someone without symptoms in the team on-site. Furthermore, we will provide

- FFP2 masks,
- disposable gloves (if necessary),
- face shields (if necessary), and
- protective eye wear² (if necessary).

for our team.

²They eyes work as gates for bacteria and viruses just as well as nose, mouth, ear, and other connections to the outside world.

6.4. Contact Tracing

Events in Austria are required to keep track of guests and their contact information. We will only use the communication details, your business affiliations (if you are an employee), and your name. We will not ask for additional information. Government regulations may change this, but we don't think so.

We will **not** require the use of the so-called Corona tracing apps. Using Bluetooth and smartphones is not reliable and cannot perform sensible contact tracing. [3] [4] [5] All Corona tracing apps can only add confusion and inaccurate data. Government regulations will not change the laws of physics.

A. COVID-19 Test Overview

There are different tests for COVID-19 and the SARS-CoV-2 corona virus. The tests look for different indicators of compromise, so to speak. [6]

- The *Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test* works by investigating a person's mucus from the nose or possibly saliva. The sample is subject to the PCR which amplifies the viral genetic material if it is present. Tests for SARS-CoV-2 are done with the resulting material.
- The *antibody test* looks for signs of a SARS-CoV-2 infection in the past. Usually this test uses a blood sample. There are more than 120 antibody tests on the market. Antibody tests may show if someone has been infected in the past. Given the different immune reactions triggered by SARS-CoV-2, there may be inaccuracies. [7] A more accurate test is to subject your blood sample against active SARS-CoV-2 viruses and measure the reaction. This can only be done in specialised laboratories.
- The *antigen test* attempts to identify people who are currently infected with SARS-CoV-2. Nose and throat secretions are checked against proteins from the virus. The antigen test is used as a screening test to determine who might need another more accurate test. Since this is the least accurate test, antigen tests have been phased out and are no longer valid.

Given the many mutations of the SARS-CoV-2 virus, you should only use adapted PCR tests to test for COVID-19.

B. Wag the Dog Reference

[There is no SARS-CoV-3.](#)

C. Document History

This table lists the revisions of this document along with the changes. When comparing the versions, please pay attention to the date on the cover sheet.

| Date | Version | Changes |
|-------------------|---------|--|
| 10 August 2020 | 0.1 | Creation of the document. (René Pfeiffer) |
| 18 August 2020 | 0.2 | Final structure, filled chapters with content. (René Pfeiffer) |
| 19 August 2020 | 1.0 | Proof-reading, updated links to resources. (Susanne Firzinger, René Pfeiffer) |
| 20 August 2020 | 1.1 | Review, added humidity to air quality. (René Pfeiffer) |
| 28 August 2020 | 1.2 | Added description of air conditioning system at the conference hotel. (René Pfeiffer) |
| 8 September 2020 | 1.3 | Added Corona Traffic Light System. (René Pfeiffer) |
| 12 September 2020 | 1.4 | Added registration. Added details to the Corona Traffic Light System. (René Pfeiffer) |
| 22 October 2020 | 1.5 | Added new regulations. (René Pfeiffer) |
| 29 June 2021 | 1.6 | Updated regulations for events and travel. (René Pfeiffer) |
| 6 September 2021 | 1.7 | Review of the regulations and updates. (René Pfeiffer) |
| 8 September 2021 | 1.8 | Review, corrected typos and hypertext links. (Susanne Firzinger, René Pfeiffer) |
| 30 October 2021 | 1.9 | Added ICU bed count, updated protection measures, and recommendations. (René Pfeiffer) |
| 13 November 2021 | 2.0 | Added 2G+ rule. (René Pfeiffer) |
| 11 November 2022 | 2.1 | Adptation for 2022. (René Pfeiffer) |
| 9 November 2023 | 2.2 | Adptation for 2022. (René Pfeiffer) |

References

- [1] [How to Protect Yourself & Others](#), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), 31 July 2020, accessed 18 August 2020.
- [2] Rebecca Lindsey, [Climate Change: Atmospheric Carbon Dioxide](#), *climate.gov* web site, published 20 February 2020, accessed 11 August 2020.
- [3] Douglas J. Leith, Stephen Farrell, [Measurement-Based Evaluation Of Google/AppleExposure Notification API For Proximity DetectionIn A Commuter Bus](#), School of Computer Science & Statistics, Trinity College Dublin, Ireland, 15 June 2020, accessed 18 August 2020.
- [4] Douglas J. Leith, Stephen Farrell, [Measurement-Based Evaluation Of Google/AppleExposure Notification API For Proximity DetectionIn A Light-Rail Tram](#), School of Computer Science & Statistics, Trinity College Dublin, Ireland, 26 June 2020, accessed 18 August 2020.
- [5] DeepSec GmbH, [Covid-19 Apps show Software Development in Crisis](#), press release, 8 May 2020, accessed 18 August 2020.
- [6] Richard Harris, [How Reliable Are COVID-19 Tests? Depends Which One You Mean](#), published 1 May 2020, accessed 18 August 2020.
- [7] Raj Thaker (Lecturer in Immunology, University of Essex), [Coronavirus: B cells and T cells explained](#), 20 July 2020, accessed 18 August 2020.
- [LongCOVID] annah E. Davis, Lisa McCorkell, Julia Moore Vogel, Eric J. Topol, [Long COVID: major findings, mechanisms and recommendations](#), Nature Reviews Microbiology, Volume 21, March 2023, 133–146.