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**Joint Meeting of the Bern Convention Network of Special Focal Points on Eradication of Illegal Killing, Trapping and Trade in Wild Birds and the CMS Intergovernmental Task Force on Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the Mediterranean and**  
**7<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Bern Convention Group of Experts on the Conservation of Birds**  
*(Valencia and Online 7 to 10 June 2022)*

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**GUIDELINES FOR IN-PERSON PARTICIPANTS**  
*(as at 17 May 2022)*

**COVID-19 PREVENTION AND RISK MITIGATION MEASURES**

**NB: these guidelines are subjected to revision following the status of the COVID-19 pandemic**

**Background**

The Joint Meeting of the Bern Convention Network of Special Focal Points on Eradication of Illegal Killing, Trapping and Trade in Wild Birds and the CMS Intergovernmental Task Force on Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the Mediterranean and the Meeting of the Bern Convention Group of Experts on the Conservation of Birds will take place in the background of the ongoing global COVID-19 pandemic. The COVID-19 Pandemic has had a significant impact on many fronts including global health, travel, and interpersonal interactions. With better understanding of the spread and control measures relating to COVID-19, it is now possible to have safer in-person meetings anchored on effective implementation and compliance with public health preventive measures.

The health and safety of participants during the meetings is a key priority of the Bern Convention and CMS Secretariats and Spain as the Host Country. This summary guidance has been prepared to inform all in-person participants about the COVID-19 prevention and mitigation measures in place. It also outlines the COVID-19 code of conduct summarizing the expectations from delegates and other participants during the meeting period.

**WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW BEFORE ARRIVAL:**

Registration / COVID-19 Vaccination Status

- All delegates, regardless of rank and affiliation who intend to participate in the meetings in person are required to verify that they are fully vaccinated against COVID-19<sup>1</sup>.
- You may be requested to present proof of vaccination at the registration counter.

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<sup>1</sup> "Fully vaccinated" means having two doses and a booster shot, when eligible



The European Union was recognized as Champion Plus for their generous support and commitment towards addressing Illegal Killing, Taking and Trade of Migratory Birds in the Mediterranean for the period 2018 - 2023. This activity has been funded with the contribution granted by the European Commission under the Migratory Species Champion Programme and through the Global Public Goods and Challenges (GPGC Programme) Cooperation Agreements with UNEP.



## TRAVELING TO SPAIN

All in-person participants should be aware of the host country entry requirements regarding COVID-19, i.e., COVID-19 vaccination requirements, COVID-19 testing and other related public health requirements. The travel information and COVID-19 requirements can be found on the following websites:

[www.spth.gob.es](http://www.spth.gob.es)

<https://travelsafe.spain.info/en/>

## GENERAL COVID-19 PREVENTION MEASURES FOR ALL IN-PERSON MEETING PARTICIPANTS

### Essential Preventive Measures:

Meeting participants should avoid exposing themselves to COVID-19 by practicing preventive health measures at all times. These preventive measures are summarized below:

- Observing a minimum physical distance of 1 meter at all times. Avoid close contact with other persons both within and outside of the meeting venue to limit potential exposure to COVID-19.
- Regularly wash your hands with soap and water or use alcohol-based sanitizer for hand hygiene. Hand hygiene facilities will be provided during the duration of the meetings at the venue.
- Wear a well-fitting face mask (standard surgical face mask, FFP2, or KN95) that fully covers your mouth AND nose. The mask should be worn before, during and after the meetings and in all shared public spaces in line with the host country public health requirements.
- Stay at your hotel or residence if you develop cough, aching body, headache, sore throat, a fever, shortness of breath or if you become unwell in any way.
- Good ventilation at the meetings venue has been prioritized; however, you should avoid any poorly ventilated spaces particularly at hotel accommodation or during external interactions. Whenever possible, ensure that your hotel or residence windows remain open to facilitate optimum ventilation.
- Practice correct cough and sneeze etiquette. Ensure that you cover your mouth or sneeze with a disposable tissue over your mouth or with your elbow.
- These WHO-approved [COVID-19 preventive measures](#) are applicable to all persons regardless of COVID-19 vaccination status.

### Before the meeting:

Prepare yourself before attending the in-person meeting:

- Apprise yourself of the current COVID-19 situation from reliable sources such as the WHO and the host country's Ministry of Health.
- Carefully read this COVID-19 health information package
- Share your contact information with the meeting organizer as provided in the registration platform. This information will include your full name, mobile phone number, email contact details, and hotel/residential details.
- Contact tracing is an important disease control procedure and will be undertaken if an in-person participant is diagnosed with COVID-19 infection during or soon after the in-person meeting
- Ensure that you carry your health and travel insurance details/card while you attend the meeting. This will be important in case external medical assistance or hospitalization is required.

### During the meeting

- Meeting participants should avoid exposing themselves to COVID-19 by always practicing preventive health measures:
- A rapid antigen test may be requested upon entrance. Participants will be informed a few days before the meeting.
- All delegates are required to wear surgical, FFP2 or KN95 masks in the venue at all times in public spaces and in the meeting rooms except when addressing the meeting.
- Seating arrangements will observe a minimum physical distance of 1 meter. Participants are advised to comply with these seating arrangements and the applicable limits for delegation numbers to avoid a situation of crowding in the meeting venues.
- Avoid close contact with other persons both within and outside the meeting venue to limit potential exposure to COVID-19.
- Participants should wash their hands with soap and water or use alcohol-based sanitiser for hand hygiene.
- Do not come to the meeting if you develop a fever or become unwell.
- Good ventilation at the meeting venue will be prioritized.

Consult the WHO-approved COVID-19 preventive measures. These apply to all persons regardless of COVID-19 vaccination status.

### Quarantine & Isolation for COVID-19

If you have symptoms, and/or if you have learned that you were possibly exposed, take the following measures:

- Self-quarantine in your hotel while closely observing your health for symptoms of COVID-19. It is important to contact the meeting organisers to receive specific guidance on monitoring your health, available testing options and other related support during quarantine.
- Get a PCR test. Contact the organizers for information on how to get a test.
- If you are confirmed to have COVID-19, you need to stay in isolation. Isolation is important in controlling the spread of COVID-19 and monitoring in case escalation of medical care is required.
- Please ask the meeting organizers how long you need to stay in isolation before you can return to the meeting or leave the country.
- **The CMS Secretariat will not be in a position to provide financial assistance** to participants testing positive for COVID-19 and hence having to isolate or self-quarantine. **Obtaining travel insurance that covers quarantine or hospitalisation in case of COVID-19 is strongly recommended.**
- Participants who received a personalised letter of invitation from the Council of Europe will be covered by a CHARTIS insurance policy. In case of illness, including COVID infection, the CHARTIS insurance policy covers the additional medical costs that are not covered by the traveller's personal insurance, including costs related to modification of travel, accommodation and subsistence in case of mandatory quarantine.

### After the meeting

- Following the conclusion of in-person meetings, participants are expected to monitor their health closely for a period of 14 days. It is important to watch out for the development of fever or any other COVID-19 symptoms.
- A participant should immediately contact the CMS Secretariat if diagnosed with COVID-19 within 14 days after the meeting.

- In case Participants are required to take a COVID PCR test to return to their home country, the Secretariat or meeting organizer will provide them with a list of testing centres. Participants should arrange the appointments for the test and cover the costs.

#### **Additional COVID-19 Information links**

- [WHO COVID-19 Videos](#)
- [Preventing COVID-19 infection at work](#)
- [Prevent COVID-19- Do the 5!](#)
- [Important hand hygiene steps](#)
- [How to properly fit your mask](#)
- [7 steps to prevent the spread of COVID-19](#)
- [COVID-19 Importance of combined preventive measures](#)

#### **INFORMATION FOR [HOST COUNTRY]**

Travel requirements can be consulted here: [www.spth.gob.es](http://www.spth.gob.es) / <https://travelsafe.spain.info/en/>

Medical services and COVID hotline: Tel. 900 300 555

- IMED Hospital Valencia [valencia@imedhospitales.com](mailto:valencia@imedhospitales.com) +34 963 00 30 00/Avenida de la Ilustración 1, Burjassot, 46100

- Hospital Quirón Salud Valencia [international.val@quironsalud.es](mailto:international.val@quironsalud.es) +34 963 69 06 00/Avenida Blasco Ibáñez 14, Valencia, 46010

- Local requirement in case of positive testing: <https://gvaoberta.gva.es/es/covid-19>

List of COVID testing centers:

Centro Médico Medicare  
Av. de Francia, 47  
46023 Valencia  
960 065 693  
Mon o Fri 08:00h–21:00h.  
Sat 09:00h–14:00h

Valencia Center  
MonFriday from 8 to 8pm  
Sat from 8 to 6pm  
C/ Grabador Esteve 1, C.P. 46004 Valencia, España  
[info@covidcenter.es](mailto:info@covidcenter.es)

IMED Valencia  
Av. de la Ilustración, 1, 46100 Burjassot, Valencia  
Tel: +34 963 003 000

CMS Secretariat COVID focal point for the meeting: Ximena Cancino, [ximena.cancino@un.org](mailto:ximena.cancino@un.org)

Bern Convention Secretariat COVID focal point for the meeting Emma Boutier, [Emma.BOUTIER@coe.int](mailto:Emma.BOUTIER@coe.int)