

COVID-19 Safety Protocols
SOFIA/ALMA-sponsored Lake Arrowhead Conference
Feb. 28-Mar. 4, 2022
Expected Attendance: 75-100 attendees

The Lake Arrowhead Conference titled "Our Galactic Ecosystem: Opportunities and Diagnostics in the Infrared and Beyond" will be held as an *in-person event* with the following COVID-19 safety protocols.

After significant deliberations, especially given the decision of the AAS to cancel their winter meeting, the organizing committee and its sponsoring organizations have decided that we can - with the help and collaboration of the attendees - carry out a safe, and productive scientific meeting. In-person conferences provide unique opportunities for extended and broad interactions that cannot be fully realized through virtual meetings.

According to several estimates by epidemiologists (<https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2022/01/04/forecasters-say-omicron-peak-could-come-this-month/>, <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/01/06/opinion/omicron-covid-us.html>) the current spike in Covid-19 (omicron strain) infections are likely to peak in the near term with a significant decrease in the case load by early March. (See also the tracking at the Johns Hopkins Coronavirus Resource Center; <https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/region/us/california>)

As a result, the following *Conference* COVID-19 safety protocols will be in place for this event:

1. To attend the conference, proof of vaccination is required to allow registration. A third-party vendor, Crowdpass, has been retained to process this data. (This is the same vendor and procedure used by the AAS for the Salt Lake City meeting).
2. In addition, registrants will need to provide proof of a **negative Covid-19 test** taken within 24 hours of departure from the attendee's residence.

For overseas attendees, this may be the test required for entry into the U.S. - if no significant delay occurs between entry to the U.S. and arrival at the conference (i.e., if you travel "directly" to Lake Arrowhead, no additional test is required, if you stop off for more than a day on the way, we request a re-test less than 24 hours before arriving.

We will verify these test results either via the Crowdpass vendor, or on-site at check-in, through the assigned USRA health POC.

3. Self-test kits will be on hand at no additional cost at the conference for anyone experiencing symptoms that may indicate a Covid-19 infection.

In case of a positive test, the attendance will be moved to a room to self-isolate and will need to submit to a re-test at the nearest PCR Facility:

Walgreens
4041 N Sierra Way, San Bernardino, CA 92407
27951 Base Line St, Highland, CA 92346

CVS

7310 Base Line St, Highland, CA 92346

For those attendees staying in a shared Chalet, the Lake Arrowhead Lodge has set aside a room for self-isolation. We ask and will rely on any conference attendee to be vigilant about their health status and to notify us at the first sign of possible Covid-19 symptoms.

In case of a confirmed case of Covid-19, the organizers will begin contact tracing and request that all persons that have come in close contact with the confirmed case also self-test and isolate as required.

4. In addition, cloth masks will not be accepted for attendees and the organizers will have surgical masks on hand at no charge.
5. The meeting venue (The UCLA Lake Arrowhead Lodge) requires that all attendees wear mask at all times while indoors in public spaces as part of their protocol - we strongly endorse, and require adherence to, those requirements.

Additionally, the following ***UCLA Lake Arrowhead Lodge*** Covid rules and protocols are as follows:

- All guests no matter of vaccination status must always wear masks while indoors. The only time a mask can be removed is while sitting and actively eating or drinking.
- If guests want to eat indoors, they must show proof of vaccination and or negative COVID test prior to eating in our dining room. If they cannot provide, they will be provided a to go meal and must eat outside or in their guestroom.
- All staff is fully vaccinated (unless they have received an exemption due to religion or health)
- All staff will have had a booster by 1/31/22 (unless they have received an exemption due to religion or health)
- All staff have received flu shot (unless they have received an exemption due to religion or health)
- All staff is now required to wear surgical masks (no cloth)
- All staff must test for Covid-19 once a week, no matter of vaccination status
- All staff members who are not vaccinated due to exemption are required to test twice a week

Your adherence to these safety protocols is greatly appreciated and will allow us to participate and benefit from this in-person scientific event.