



June 17, 2022

COVID Safety at the HLAA 2022 Convention in Tampa

[Hillsborough County \(Tampa\)](#) does not require the wearing of facemasks, so it is up to the individual to wear a mask or not. For those who wish to wear masks at the HLAA Convention, we'll provide clear masks at the convention registration desk.

We've taken measures to require COVID vaccinations when registering for the convention. However, according to the governor's [executive order](#), we cannot require proof of vaccination on site. The City of Tampa provides updates on COVID [here](#).

HLAA realizes that there are still COVID exposure risks around the world. Individuals must make their own decisions about whether or not to attend public events based on their personal concerns. The convention is being held at the JW Marriott Tampa Water Street where hotel employees, other patrons, and people in surrounding restaurants and shops may not be wearing masks. We will do our best to keep the event safe. There will be plastic shields at the convention registration table, as well as hand sanitizers, antibacterial wipes to sanitize the registration table and pens, etc. However, we cannot require hotel patrons, other convention attendees, or businesses in Tampa to self-test.

We encourage people to test for COVID if they have symptoms or feel they are at risk. Here is the list of places to get tested:

- 1. CVS** - 0.7 miles from JW Marriott Tampa Water Street
220 E. Madison Street, North Phone: 813.228.0175
- 2. TGH Urgent Care Downtown on Water Street** - 0.3 miles from JW Marriott Tampa Water Street
564 Channelside Drive Phone: 813.925.1903
- 3. Tampa General Hospital** - 1.6 miles from JW Marriott Tampa Water Street
1 Tampa General Circle Phone: 813.844.7000

If you test positive for COVID or feel sick, you must follow the [CDC guidelines for quarantining](#), and you may not attend any convention events for everyone's safety. We recommend wearing a mask if you are testing negative for COVID, but are showing some symptoms of a cold.

We ask that individuals take personal responsibility for their health. Let's work together to make this first HLAA in-person convention since 2019 smooth and safe for everyone. If you have any questions, please email convention@hearingloss.org.