

## **New Life Conference 2021**

### **COVID-19 Policy**

#### **Introduction**

NLC 2021 operates from 7-14 August 2021 and is subject to the law and guidance of HM Government for the UK as at that date. The main principles informing this policy are that the law on social distancing and the wearing of masks has been abolished and that the limitations on group sizes and group singing have also been lifted, with these being matters of personal responsibility.

The NHS Test and Trace system is still expected to be in effect, with 10 days' self-isolation still a mandatory requirement for those with a positive test and having been in close contact with someone who has tested positive.

The biggest threats to the smooth operation of conference, therefore, are the possibility of a positive test at conference and, for individual delegates, the requirement to self-isolate if they are contacted by NHS Test & Trace.

Those coming from outside the UK are still subject to the traffic light system. Delegates from Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland are subject to the laws of the administrations of those countries until they are at conference. The trustees cannot be held responsible for compliance with external laws or with ensuring or facilitating compliance with the traffic light system. The conference will be operated in accordance with the law of England.

Our policy, therefore, reflects these three major issues and is based on three principles:

- For all delegates: either confirmation by delegates of having received two doses of a vaccine offered by the NHS (or two doses of an EU recognised vaccine) or of self-testing prior to conference (and ensuring compliance with traffic light rules or other applicable laws) to eradicate, if possible, any Covid-19 cases arising at conference.
- Personal responsibility on the part of delegates whilst at conference (subject to the reasonable requirements of individual departments within conference).
- Honesty and transparency in relation to any requirement to self-isolate on any individual delegates imposed during the week of conference.

#### **Entry requirements for all delegates: confirmation of being double vaccinated or self-testing**

Any delegate who confirms they have been double vaccinated will be admitted to conference. We would still encourage lateral flow self-testing for delegates who have been double-vaccinated ahead of conference, so as to limit the possibility of an incidence of Covid-19 at conference.

All delegates (excluding children under 5) who have not been double vaccinated (or EU equivalent) will be required to administer a lateral flow test in the 48 hours prior to attendance at conference and be prepared to confirm to the conference welcome team that they have done so, in order to be admitted to conference. It is suggested that each delegate in this category tests themselves with a lateral flow test four days before conference starts to give time for a PCR test to be taken in the event of a positive lateral flow test result. If the PCR test is negative, they can be admitted to conference.

If the first lateral flow test result is negative, a second lateral flow test should still be taken in the 48 hours before attendance at conference.

Any delegate testing positive on a lateral flow test or PCR test taken in accordance with the above should not attend and will not be admitted to conference, unless they have subsequently taken a PCR test and tested negative within 48 hours of a positive lateral flow test.

Any delegate arriving at conference without complying with these requirements will be required to take a lateral flow test on the gate and will not be admitted to conference if they refuse to do so or in the event of a positive test.

Confirmation of being double vaccinated (or EU Equivalent) or pre-arrival testing requirements apply to all delegates, including day visitors, delegates from Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland (who are responsible for complying with the laws of their own countries) and delegates from outside the UK (who are themselves responsible for complying with the traffic light system).

The trustees reserve the right to ask appropriate questions and for evidence of compliance with Covid-19 rules from delegates.

### **Discretionary refunds of conference booking fees**

Any delegate who tests positive prior to conference or is required to self-isolate for a period which precludes them from attending conference will be eligible to be considered for a refund of conference booking fees. Delegates who are family members or members of the same party of a person who tests positive prior to conference or are required to self-isolate for a period which precludes them from attending conference may be eligible to be considered for a refund of conference booking fees if they are not able to attend conference because of the positive test or self-isolation requirement imposed.

**Any delegate who turns up at the gate either without confirming a double vaccine (or EU equivalent) or without having undertaken a lateral flow test and is tested at the gate of conference will not be entitled to be considered for a refund if the test result is positive.** Any delegate who has not been double vaccinated and refuses to take a test will be refused entry to conference and will not be entitled to be considered for a refund.

Any delegate who is subjected to a requirement to self-isolate imposed during conference week will not be entitled to be considered for a refund.

The cases of those in the categories above listed as being eligible to be considered for a refund of conference booking fees shall not be liable to be considered by the trustees until after conference ends. In deciding upon the availability of any fund out of which a full or partial refund may be made to delegates who are listed above as being eligible, the trustees shall first of all prioritise the full defrayment of conference outgoings and costs, followed by the retention of sufficient funds to able to operate the conference in future as well as any other financial priorities which the trustees in their absolute discretion may determine.

If a decision is taken to make a fund available for making full or partial refunds to eligible delegates, then, on a purely discretionary basis (which may include the consideration of individual cases of need or hardship) the trustees may give consideration to the partial or complete refund of conference booking fees to those in the eligible categories listed above.

### **Personal responsibility**

The conference itself will not be subject to any formal Covid-19 rules. There will be no requirement to socially distance or wear masks and congregational singing will be allowed.

The wishes of individual delegates to wear masks or to keep social distance will be respected but not enforced on other delegates. Our aim is to make a safe environment for all delegates within the framework of current HM Government rules and guidance; it is, however, assumed that anyone coming to conference is making an informed choice as to the risk of potential exposure to Covid-19 and we cannot guarantee that the conference is 100% free of Covid-19. Regular handwashing and the use of hand sanitiser is encouraged. Hand sanitiser will be available at the entrance of the main marquee and seminar rooms.

The trustees will make available space in the main marquee for delegates who may wish to sit at a distance from other delegates.

Any delegate with particular concerns should make these known to the trustees and the trustees shall make a decision in their discretion on what actions (if any) should be taken to accommodate such requests.

As set out above, individual ministries and activities within conference (including but not limited to children's and youth works and the swimming pool) will be free to impose reasonable requirements on delegates attending those works in terms of Covid-19 safety and all such rules shall have been made known to and verified by the trustees in advance of conference (but shall not include enforcement of mask wearing or social distancing).

Delegates travelling to Wales or other parts of the UK during conference week (whilst attending conference) will need to comply with the laws of those countries during their visits.

#### **Test & Trace and honesty and transparency**

Any delegate at conference who is contacted by NHS Test & Trace during the week of conference and imposed with a requirement to self-isolate is required to make this known to the conference office (preferably not in person!) and to leave and not return to the Quinta site. We will not be able to accommodate anyone self-isolating at conference.

During conference week, any delegate who begins to have Covid-19 symptoms, or if HM Government rules require it, should take a lateral flow test and follow HM Government rules. The trustees will make lateral flow test kits available at conference for this purpose. The nearest NHS PCR testing facility is at Beatrice Street car park, Oswestry SY11 1QW.

Draft: 20 July 2021