



ARENA 2022

Arctic Remote Energy Networks Academy

COVID-19 PROTOCOLS: Alaska On-site

Overview

The ARENA U.S. co-leads created the protocols below in conjunction with public health officials to reduce the COVID-19 infection risk for both participating members of the 2022 ARENA cohort as well as the presenters, instructors and community members engaged with the program. Also outlined are COVID-19 travel requirements for non-U.S. travelers as well as procedures should a member of the cohort test positive for COVID-19 during one of the on-site visits.

The ARENA program will be traveling to small communities with limited medical services. It is **our collective responsibility** to do our due diligence to protect our host communities as well as ourselves.

Before Entering the U.S.

- Review [CDC travel guidelines](#) for travel to the U.S. (See: Before You Travel to the United States)
- If you are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 in the week prior to an on-site, please inform organizers as soon as possible to discuss your options.
- Please limit contacts with others as much as possible for **at least** 72 hours prior to your departure.
- International travelers flying to the U.S. MUST have proof of a negative COVID-19 test taken no more than 1 day before travel. [Learn more about testing requirements.](#)
- Secure your certified paperwork indicating your vaccination status. **Full vaccination is required for entry into the United States and for participation in the ARENA program.** [Learn more about vaccination requirements.](#)
- If you are flying to Alaska from the United States, testing is recommended, but not required, prior to flying.

During an On-site

General Safety

- Please maintain good hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette, including:
 - Regular hand washing and hand sanitizer use
 - Covering your nose and mouth when you sneeze or cough
 - Avoid touching your face
- Please be mindful of close contacts outside of the ARENA cohort bubble.
- Please pack several masks to have on-hand.
- Participants are welcome to mask during any part of the program should they choose to do so.

What will be provided:

- Hand sanitizer
- Extra masks
- Rapid tests, as needed
- A description of local health guidelines and mandates

Testing Schedule:

Free testing will be required three times during the program:

Day 1, July 17: Fairbanks; test #1

Day 2, July 18: Fairbanks

Day 3, July 19: Fairbanks; test #2 in evening

Day 4, July 20: A.M. flight to Kotzebue; test #2 in morning if not done the night before

Day 5, July 21: Kotzebue

Day 6, July 22: Kotzebue; test #3 immediately prior to leaving for village charter flights

Day 7, July 23: Kotzebue

If you start experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 during the on-site:

- Participant will return to their room immediately and test for COVID-19
- If the participant tests negative, they will be allowed to rejoin the cohort masked and socially distanced. A second test will be administered two days after the first.

If you test positive for COVID-19 during an on-site:

- If a participant tests positive for COVID-19, they will be required to isolate in their dorm room for at least 5 days. This may mean missing parts of the program or delaying travel home.
- UAF and ACEP staff will help support isolated participants with obtaining food and other necessities during isolation.
- If participants must travel before 10 days are up, they will need to wear a mask and do their best to stay away from others as they can still be infectious for up to 10 days.

Local Considerations:

Local responses to COVID-19 are ever evolving. Participants of the ARENA program will be required to follow all local guidelines during their visits to Fairbanks, Kotzebue and villages in the Northwest Arctic borough. Organizers will do their best to provide the most up-to-date information in a timely fashion.

Before Leaving the U.S.

- Please review any and all COVID-19 testing and other travel related requirements necessary for returning to your home nation **prior** to departing for the Alaska program. Know what you need and when you need it.
- Program organizers can assist in obtaining required tests.

PROGRAM CONTACTS

Questions? Comments? Requests?

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