



FLOAT 2022

AGAIN...WE RISE...

COVID-19 PROTOCOLS FOR ALL ATTENDEES

As of February 7, 2021

PLEASE NOTE: This is the worst case scenario plan for dealing with COVID-19 at an in-person event with an expected attendance of 500 people. Final decisions on what actions will be taken at FLOAT 2022 will be decided upon in late 2021, and will be based upon medical and scientific data as well as all state and local laws pertaining to COVID-19

Section One: General Registration and Attendance

1. In order to adhere to social distancing guidelines, FLOAT 2022's convention registration will have to be limited to a maximum of 300 paid in-person attendees.
2. All attendees at FLOAT 2022 will have to sign a COVID agreement that includes but is not limited to (A) a sworn statement that they have not experienced any COVID related symptoms in the past thirty days and (B) that they release FLOAT, its producers, crew and sponsors from liability should they happen to contract COVID-19 or any other illness while in attendance at the convention.
3. All attendees will have to have their temperatures taken daily while at FLOAT. Our safety protocol teams will be stationed at each entrance into the two convention segments of the building, and will be taking attendee temperatures using contact-free thermometers. Once cleared, the attendee will be given a colored bracelet indicating that they have been cleared for that particular day. All attendees will be required to wear said bracelet each day to show that they have been cleared to safely participate in the activities and functions of the convention that day.
4. Under this plan, all attendees will be required to wear a mask or face covering while anywhere in the convention space. The mask or face covering is to be worn over the nose and mouth at ALL TIMES when engaging in the convention space. FLOAT will provide all attendees with one (1) cloth face mask upon arrival to the convention, and single use masks will also be made available in the event of emergency. However, all delegates should plan on having at least one (1) clean cloth face covering for each day that they plan to be at the convention.
5. Face shields, while permitted and recommended, are NOT a substitution for a face mask or covering. Recent CDC guidelines have shown that face shields alone do not provide enough protection from the COVID 19 virus.
6. The only exception to the face mask policy are those individuals whose medical conditions do not allow them to wear masks for prolonged periods. Any individual who requests such a release from this policy and has registered for FLOAT on or before December 31, 2021, will need to have medical documentation provided to FLOAT from their doctor by no later than January 6, 2022.
7. Under the COVID protocol format, FLOAT 2022 will not be able to offer the FLOATation Pass. Social distancing will require restrictions in class sizes and enrollment requirements (see later section) and the FLOATation Pass can conflict with those restrictions.
8. Under the COVID protocol format, FLOAT 2022 will require that all delegates pre-enroll for all classes at the convention. This includes the general classes as well as all optional classes. This way we can control the numbers of students in each room and adhere to social distancing guidelines.
9. Delegates will enroll for classes at FLOAT 2022 in the order in which they completed their full payment to the convention. Delegates will be contacted by phone or email by a FLOAT representative starting in November 2021 and will be guided through the enrollment process on a one-on-one basis. They will sign up for their classes through the FLOAT representative working directly with them, and then will receive written confirmation of the classes they sign up for within 24 hours of their completion.
10. Delegates who wish to enroll in optional classes will be expected to pay for such classes at the time they are signing up for them. Optional classes will be open for enrollment starting in November 2021, and will be done through the FLOATConvention.com website. Class size will also be limited to adhere to social distancing concerns.

11. In an effort to provide further social distancing, FLOAT will provide two different registration areas. One area will be designated for those delegates with the last names of A - L and another area for those delegates M - Z. Sponsors and instructors will receive their badges and welcome information at the entrance to the FLOAT crew storage room.

12. To further avoid potential wait times and congregations, FLOAT will enact a first ever reservation system for registration check in at FLOAT 2022. Delegates will be allowed to select a 60-minute block of time during regular registration check in hours on Friday, January 21, Saturday, January 22, and Sunday, January 23, 2022. At that time, delegates will be encouraged to arrive during that time block to retrieve their convention welcome packet and will enter a designated "reservation" line as opposed to a general line at the registration desk. We believe this will help avoid longer lines and prevent grouping of people.

13. Safety reminders regarding social distancing, hand washing and other COVID-19 related concerns will be posted throughout the convention areas.

14. FLOAT will add a new staff member who shall serve as "Safety Director" and will oversee the safety protocols that need to be put in place during the convention.

15. Because of concerns over safety matters in private hotel rooms, FLOAT cannot and will not endorse delegates sharing a hotel room with anyone they do not currently live with. While FLOAT cannot and will not restrict delegates from choosing to share a hotel room with others from outside their own homes, FLOAT cannot assist with coordination of those looking to share rooms at the 2022 convention.

16. No guests of any kind will be permitted in the FLOAT 2022 convention space. Only fully paid attendees, sponsors, instructors, production team members, outside vendors and hotel staff will be allowed inside the event space. This includes Opening Night and the Designers Award Gala. This will include children under the age of 13 who are not registered delegates for FLOAT 2022.

17. While delegates are encouraged to get vaccinated against COVID-19, FLOAT does not require attendees to show proof of vaccination in order to attend.

18. Failure to follow FLOAT's COVID protocols may result in you being removed from the convention, the forfeiture of any fees you have paid to the event and possible ban from attending future conventions.

19. In the event that FLOAT 2022 has to enact the limited attendance policy of 300 paid attendees and FLOAT is overscheduled at that point, FLOAT will have no choice but to refund individuals in the sequence in which they enrolled, on a last in, first out basis. Those individuals who enrolled in the payment plan program but did not complete their payment schedule before any closures took place will be eligible for a partial refund of their previously paid amount, minus a \$50 processing charge.

20. As with any event in the age of COVID-19, FLOAT reserves the right to reschedule the dates of the convention due to safety concerns to all attendees. In addition, if national, state and local mandates deem it illegal for the event to take place, FLOAT 2022 will have to be rescheduled to a time when it is deemed safe to host the event.

Section Two: Classroom and Academic Policies

1. As mentioned in Section One, FLOAT may be required to enact a pre-registration policy for all classes at the 2022 Convention. If this occurs, all class attendance will be limited to a maximum of fifty (50) students per class. Once a class is filled, it will no longer be available for registration. This policy will apply to all class styles offered at FLOAT: general classes, master classes and bonus classes (if available).
2. All seats in each classroom will be positioned in theater style with the instructor presenting at the front of the room on a riser. To best adhere to social distancing guidelines, all chairs will be placed six (6) feet apart from one another.
3. To avoid excessive lines forming outside of classrooms that cannot by nature adhere to social distancing, FLOAT will enact a lottery system for selecting seats in each classroom. Delegate names will be randomly drawn prior to the convention and seats will be assigned based on those lottery drawings. Delegates will be presented with their seating assignments in each class room upon registration check in at the event.
4. Each classroom will have a designated Safety Team monitor whose job will be to make sure all in the room are following social distance protocols before, during and after class. All delegates and instructors at FLOAT will acknowledge that the guidance of the Safety Team monitor comes first and foremost. Any direction given by the Safety Team monitor should be considered law in each classroom, and all inside the room are directed to follow their instruction. Failure to adhere to the directions of the Safety Team monitor may result in individuals in violation of COVID protocols being removed from a classroom.
5. In an effort to provide a safe and clean environment to all in attendance, delegates can request assistance from the FLOAT Safety Team monitor in cleaning their seat before class.
6. In an effort to maintain safety and social distancing, all instructors at FLOAT will be required to instruct from the riser only. Instructors are not to leave the riser at any time as part of their class instruction, and if they do so, they are violating FLOAT safety policy and will be held responsible as such.
7. During each class session at FLOAT, instructors will be allowed to remove their face masks as long as they are wearing a FLOAT issued face shield. They are only allowed to wear the shield exclusively while they are teaching their class, and are only allowed to do so while instructing from the riser. The instructor face shield exception is not and should not be considered a rubber stamp to excuse themselves from wearing a mask at all other times during the convention.
8. In an effort to create a better experience for all delegates regardless of where they are seated in a classroom, FLOAT will be providing all classrooms with video equipment intended to spotlight and showcase the instructor on a large projection screen. This way, students who are in the back of the room should benefit as much as those in the front of the room.
9. Due to the exceptional nature of these circumstances and the added demands on the time of the FLOAT Production team as a result, waiting lists will not be accepted for general classes at FLOAT. Once a class is full, it's full. You will need to choose another class at that point.
10. No one may stand in the back of a classroom if they do not have an assigned seat in the room. The exception to this policy are FLOAT staff and manufacturer sponsor representatives who happen to be sponsoring that particular class. Those who are eligible to stand in the back of a classroom should respect all social distancing guidelines.

11. Whenever possible, all FLOAT classrooms under full COVID protocols will feature one set of doors designated as the ENTRANCE to a classroom and a different set of doors designated as the EXIT to a classroom. These doors will be clearly marked and designated in each classroom, and safety monitors will regulate access and exiting of all participants.

12. In the event that full COVID protocols must be put in place, FLOAT will have no choice but to limit the number of available classes for each session to a maximum of four (4). This may also mean that the number of instructors being presented at FLOAT 2022 may have to be reduced as a result.

13. With regard to the FLOAT "Blue Badges," they will be subject to the same lottery system as general delegates will be. The difference is those delegates eligible for the blue badges will be limited to a lottery within seats designated for blue badge holders.

Section Three: Social Functions at FLOAT

1. Due to the direct correlation between alcohol consumption and personal conduct regarding mask wearing, alcohol will not be served at any FLOAT 2022 function. Delegates may do whatever they like in their rooms, at the hotel bar or on their own time, but FLOAT cannot sanction event-sponsored alcohol service of any kind at the convention.

2. In the event of full COVID-19 protocols, the "Club L8X" Karaoke Party and the Monday Night Beach Party will have to be cancelled.

3. In the event of full COVID-19 protocols, FLOAT's Opening Night Welcome Party will have to take the form of "FLOAT's Opening Night Parade" and will proceed as follows:

A. Delegates will receive an assigned window of time to come to the hotel lobby so not too many delegates are scheduled to proceed at one time

B. Delegates will then begin a walking tour of the convention space including the Vendor Room(s), competition spaces, classrooms and the like.

C. Along the walking path, delegates will get to greet instructors, sponsors and staff who will be presenting signage with important content you will need to know for the convention. At no time should any staff person, instructor or sponsor be in physical contact with a person in the parade.

D. Safety monitors will assist with the flow of the parade route, monitoring personal space between attendees and room capacities.

E. Photo ops, decor and live performers will be scattered throughout the parade route for delegate entertainment.

F. If at any point in the walking path delegates are forced to pass one another along the parade route while facing opposite directions, FLOAT will provide a barrier between the two paths to provide an added level of safety.

G. When the delegates have completed their parade route, they will be asked to clear the area so that others can safely enjoy the experience as well.

4. In the event of full COVID-19 protocols, FLOAT's Designer Awards Gala will proceed as follows:

A. Room capacity cannot exceed 500 people under any circumstances.

B. Tables will seat no more than five (5) individuals and will be reserved in advance. **NO EXCEPTIONS.**

C. Seating will be arranged so that as many people as possible are seated with their backs to one another while dining.

D. Delegates will be assigned a reservation time to enter the DAG and take their seats in the ballroom. This is intended to help avoid long lines waiting to get into the space prior to the event.

E. Delegates should absolutely wear their masks at all times during the DAG unless they are specifically taking food or drink into their mouths. Dinner service should not be mistaken as a "mask free time period."

F. Delegates should refrain from speaking as much as they can while eating or drinking when not wearing their masks at the DAG.

G. Because of social distancing guidelines, FLOAT's DAG will not feature a dance floor.

6. During the DAG, the award ceremony will involve the following:

A. Possible winners will be required to attend a rehearsal on Wednesday, January 26th, in the afternoon to go over the procedures in case they win.

B. Prior to each winner being presented, an attendant will come on stage and place the award on a table in the center of the stage.

C. The host will announce the winner of the award from a lectern to the side of the stage.

D. The winner will then proceed to the stage, pick up their award, stop at a designated point for photos and then exit from the stage.

E. In the event of other presenters speaking on stage (aka sponsors), microphones will be swapped out between speakers so they can be properly cleaned between uses.

F. In the event of other presenters speaking on stage, no more than two (2) presenters will be allowed at a time on stage, and no one may share microphones. When more than one presenter / speaker is on stage, they should follow all social distancing guidelines while present.

G. Anyone planning to speak on stage during the DAG will be required to inform the tech team by no later than January 20th, 2022.

H. Out of concern for social distancing issues, no group photos will be allowed to be taken on stage. Our photographers for the event will not be permitted to take group photos as well in any capacity at the convention.

7. Construction teams involved with preparation, inflation, building and teardown of all decor for any FLOAT event must engage in safe and responsible behavior, regardless of COVID, and follow all social distance guidelines when working.

8. Whenever possible, delegates working on tasks involving decor for FLOAT's events should create "personal work zones" so as not to violate social distancing guidelines. FLOAT will provide caution tape if delegates feel more comfortable with creating marked spaces while they work.

9. Under full FLOAT COVID protocols, guests will not be permitted to attend any social event at FLOAT, including Opening Night or the Designer Awards Gala.

Section Four: The Vendor Showcase

1. In the event of full COVID protocols at FLOAT, the Vendor Showcase will be extended, both in number of days and in daily availability. In the event of full COVID protocols, the FLOAT Vendor Showcase will take place during the following hours:

Monday, January 24 - 11:30 AM to 8:00 PM

Tuesday, January 25 - 11:30 AM to 8:00 PM

Wednesday, January 26 - 11:30 AM to 2:00 PM

2. In order to attend the Vendor Showcase at FLOAT 2022 during full COVID protocols, delegates will be required to reserve a designated 90-minute time slot (times to be determined at a later date) in which to attend the Showcase. The number of delegates allowed to sign up for a particular slot will be determined by how large the final Vendor Showcase floor plan is going to be. At the time of this release, we at FLOAT are currently in negotiations to acquire additional floor space at the host venue.

3. No delegate will be allowed to sign up for a second time slot for the Vendor Showcase until every other delegate has had the opportunity to attend at least once.

4. Time will be reserved between 90-minute segments so that high traffic areas and surfaces can be reviewed and cleaned before the next group of attendees enter the space.

5. Out of social distancing concerns, FLOAT will not be able to feature the Vendor Spotlight Stage during the Vendor Showcase.

6. Safety monitors will circulate through the Vendor Showcase to insure that people are following social distancing guidelines.

7. Out of concern for social distancing issues, FLOAT's raffle drawings will be done live on line through FB and winners will be able to pick up their prizes from the FLOAT registration desk.

8. Vendors presenting at the showcase should plan on not allowing delegates to enter their booths at FLOAT. Tables should be placed along the exterior sides facing the viewers to help provide a safe distance between attendees and vendors.

9. Vendors will be restricted to limited staffing in their booths during the Showcase. Vendors with a single 8' by 8' booth are limited to only one (1) staff person at a time in their space. Vendors with a double booth of 16' by 8' are limited to only two (2) staff persons at any one time in their space. In addition, vendors must still follow all social distancing guidelines.

10. In the event of full COVID protocols, FLOAT will provide full 8' side walls between booths as opposed to the standard 3' barriers normally used to help shield vendors between booth spaces.

11. Vendors are discouraged from placing printed materials on their tables with the intent for delegates to handle them. Vendors are encouraged to place any flyer or promotional materials (when possible) in the form of a sign, placard or QR code that people can take photos of with their phones and review independently. Any paperwork vendors would like delegates to receive should be dispensed through the Welcome Tote program.

12. The Vendor Showcase will feature clearly designated doors for both entrance only and exit only. All attendees inside the space should follow all instructional guidelines as to which doors to use and when.

13. In the event of full COVID protocols, the “mini-booth” concept for the Vendor Showcase at FLOAT will have to be cancelled. Delegates involved in the program will be upgraded to a full sized booth at no additional cost to them, or they can request a full refund from FLOAT since these COVID protocols were not under consideration when the mini-booths were sold. In the event that we do not have enough space to provide everyone a full booth of their own at FLOAT, then mandatory refunds will be issued based on last in, first out.

14. All vendors should feature hand sanitizer in their booth and offer it to delegates in the event anything is touched or handled by a delegate at any time during your encounter with them.

15. Vendors who do not follow FLOAT's COVID protocols face the same penalties as delegates who do not; possible removal from the event, forfeiture of any payment made to the convention and possible banning from future events.

Section Five: Competitions at FLOAT

I. In the event of full COVID protocols at FLOAT, the Designer of the Year competition series will need to be adjusted:

A. Entrance Decor - This competition will be extended two more hours so competitors will have 6 1/2 hours to inflate, construct and clean up their entries. Because of social distancing guidelines, designers will be limited to a team of only two (2) people: the designer and an assistant.

B. Table Centerpiece (Live) - For the most part, this competition will remain the same. However, competitors will be issued their own designated work space as opposed to sharing a space with another team. In addition, each team entered will be assigned a designated time they are given access to helium use so as not to form a line of people waiting to use the tank.

C. Sculpture - This competition will have to be eliminated due to social distancing concerns.

D. Foil Design - This competition will be extended two more hours so competitors will have 6 1/2 hours to inflate, construct and clean up their entries. Because of social distancing guidelines, designers will be limited to a team of only two (2) people: the designer and an assistant. In addition, designers who need helium for their entries will need to either secure their own helium this year or they will need to purchase a tank through FLOAT.

E. Organic Decor - This competition will be extended two more hours so competitors will have 6 1/2 hours to inflate, construct and clean up their entries. Because of social distancing guidelines, designers will be limited to a team of only two (2) people: the designer and an assistant.

2. Designers involved in any DOTY competition must assume any and all responsibility for their team and their team's behavior during the competition parameters. This includes following all COVID protocols as well as providing their team members personal protective gear should they not already possess it, enough hand sanitizer for team members to use multiple times during a given competition and more.

3. Designers will be allowed to pose for photographs with their work with their masks pulled down or removed as long as it is understood that this is a momentary occurrence and they are to keep their speaking limited while their mask is off.

4. Competitors will be assigned to designated work spaces during their competitions. Anyone not involved in the competitions are NOT allowed to be in the competition zone while active competitions are taking place.

5. All other general rules apply to the 2022 FLOAT Competition Series. These rules will be updated and posted sometime around September 2021.