

McCain Global Leaders Cohort 2022: COVID-19 Protocol and Contingencies

Background: The COVID-19 Pandemic will most likely continue to be prevalent throughout the world at the beginning of Cohort 2022's program year (February, 2022) and has preemptively altered the timeline and sequence of programming. As such, the McCain Institute has developed a framework for determining the safety and viability of holding in-person programs in the United States and abroad as well as a detailed set of contingencies that include virtual programming, should the McCain Institute deem it unsafe or unethical to move forward with in-person programs. The McCain Institute will routinely monitor the pandemic in home countries of participants, program host countries and in the United States. This will also include monitoring the distribution of vaccines to participant countries and vaccine rates in program host countries. The McCain Institute will make every effort to be cognizant of sensitivities related to the pandemic as well as routinely and clearly communicate the COVID-19 protocol with participants during the application process, selection process and kick-off. The purpose of this protocol and contingencies is to ensure equity within the program, so that no participant is left out because of the pandemic and to recognize the sensitivities surrounding the pandemic.

Protocol:

- **Monitoring:** The McCain Institute will routinely analyze data derived from trusted media, Centers for Diseases Control (CDC) and the State Department to monitor the effects of COVID-19 as it relates to international travel, "hot spots" and vaccine rates. Additionally, the Institute will routinely check-in with U.S. Embassies and partner international NGOs to gain on the ground insight as it relates regional and country specific situations. This will be specifically targeted to home countries of participants and host countries, including the United States. This monitoring will help inform Institute staff of the viability of in-person programming.
- **Metrics:**
 - The McCain Institute will utilize the [CDC COVID-19 Travel Recommendation Guidance](#) to determine whether or not programming in a host country is viable. Any country with a Level 3 or Level 4 rating will not be considered viable. For Level 2 and below the Institute will consult with each host countries' U.S. Embassy and partner organizations (if they have an in-country office) as well as with local program partners. This consultation will seek to verify the level spread of the virus, how in-person meetings are functioning, identify local restrictions, travel restrictions and the availability of accessible and quality medical care.
 - International travel has been largely disrupted by the pandemic, as such mandatory quarantine periods, closed borders and snap lockdowns have been prevalent in most countries. The McCain Institute will monitor all of the above factors. Programming in countries that require a mandatory quarantine over 24 hours for non-vaccinated or vaccinated travelers will not be deemed viable. This also includes countries that require a vaccine to enter.

- Participant comfort level will also be considered in final determinations. No participant will be required to travel during the program year. If the McCain Institute moves forward with an in-person program, each participant must make their own determination on participation based upon their comfort level and any pre-existing conditions that place them at an elevated risk. For the Leadership and Legacy Experiences, if more than 10 participants opt out of traveling for the experience it will then be canceled. For the Changemaker Tour, if 2 or more participants opt out of traveling, the tour will be cancelled.
- Determination:
 - Leadership Experience (April and May 2022): If any of the above factors make a host country or participation unviable, the Institute will cancel the program with a final decision at the end of February 2022.
 - Changemaker Tour (June – August 2022): If any of the above factors make a host country or participation unviable, the Institute will cancel **all** Changemaker Tours with a final decision at the end of March 2022.
 - Legacy Experience: If any of the above factors make a host country or participation unviable, the Institute will cancel the program with a final decision at the end of June 2022.

Contingencies: The McCain Institute has developed a comprehensive contingency plan should some or all of the in-person programs be cancelled due to the pandemic. Relying on the global transition to virtual meetings, seminars, and trainings, the Institute will utilize technology to conduct virtual programming that is still effective, meaningful and engaging. This will include:

- shifting the already virtual Leadership and Toolkit Trainings timeline to take the place of cancelled programs;
- adapting the Changemaker Tour to include virtual meetings and workshops with regional and host country experts;
- sharing the legacy and life of Senator McCain through virtual meetings and experiences with those who knew him.
- Contingent on an agreement with funders, the Institute will also seek to have Cohort 2022 participants attend the Legacy and Changemaker portions of Cohort 2023 should either or both be cancelled.

Vaccine and Regulation Compliance:

- Vaccines will not be required for participation in the program; however participants are encouraged to get the vaccine if it is available to make the program as safe as possible as well as make travel easier.
- Participants will be responsible for understanding their home country's COVID-19 protocols as it relates to foreign travel.



- The McCain Institute will clearly communicate all restrictions and protocols related to the host country, including travel restrictions.
- If host countries require a vaccine, participants must provide documentation that they have received the vaccine. The Institute will not be responsible if participants are unable to enter a country for failure to comply with COVID-19 protocols and restrictions.
- The Institute will adhere to all local, country and international COVID-19 restrictions and measures. All participants will be expected to comply with such restrictions and measures which include wearing masks, social distancing and limiting the size of in-person gatherings.