

Loving Men at New Year '21

Covid Precautions

Thank you to everyone who completed our recent online poll with feedback about your feelings about Covid precautions at the event. We have settled on the following protocol, which is based on the practice of the Welsh government (even though we will not be in Wales) and was employed at the Tantra 4 Gay Men festival in August 2021 and resulted in zero transmissions during that event. It seeks to balance safety, ethics and diverse needs/responses to vaccination. We would like to thank Tantra 4 Gay Men (www.tantra4gaymen.co.uk) for generously providing support to us in working out this protocol.

- Everyone at the event will either be fully vaccinated or PCR-tested within 72 hours of arrival. Evidence of your vaccination status or PCR test result will need to be seen before you are admitted to the event. People who cannot provide this evidence on arrival will not be allowed to attend the event and will need to make their way home.
- In addition, everyone, regardless of vaccination status, will do two lateral flow tests: One at home on the day of travel, and one on arrival at the venue before being admitted. People who test positive on arrival will not be allowed to attend the event and will need to make their way home.
- Our group will then be the safest container we can realistically achieve. Anyone leaving the site overnight, including staff and any participants who are not staying at Ilam Hall will follow Health & Safety Guidelines.

Given this protocol it is unlikely that anyone will become unwell with Covid during the event. If you were to become unwell during the event with Covid symptoms there will be a designated space for you to go and conduct a Lateral Flow Test, and a way to alert a member of the crew so we can provide assistance and help with next steps. The YHA policy on cases of active infection in the hostel is that wherever practically possible the individual should make their way home as soon as possible. Depending on the risk of exposure it may be required that any room-mates of the infected person take a lateral flow test and follow the government guidelines for this set of circumstances.