

Covid Policy & Procedures

BYM Annual Session Covid Policies are subject to change based on local, state, and national conditions. We hope conditions will improve by August, which may allow us to relax some policies. Any changes to the policy will be shared with registered participants via email.

1. Friends are kindly asked to take a rapid Covid test before checking in at Annual Session.
2. Masking protocols will prioritize safety over comfort. Friends who attend will need to be comfortable wearing masks in certain situations. No Friend will be asked to *not* wear a mask if they are not comfortable doing so. Masking protocols are as follows:
 - a. Masks will be worn by Friends while passing and mingling in indoor, public spaces such as the registration area, bookstore, dorm lobbies, etc.
 - b. Masks will be worn for all indoor sessions with more than 20 Friends in attendance including all plenaries, Meetings for Worship, and business sessions. However, a small number of Friends will be unmasked during these events such as the Clerks, plenary speaker, etc. Friends will also be asked to briefly remove their mask when delivering a message.
 - c. For smaller indoor gatherings, Friends should expect to wear a mask. However, the group may unanimously choose to be unmasked.
 - d. Masks will not be required at outdoor events and gatherings.
 - e. Masks will not be worn during meals. There is some outdoor seating available on the patio of the Hood College dining hall. In addition, Friends should be aware that Hood College staff and other on-campus guests will be following local masking regulations, which may include not wearing masks at the time of Annual Session. [Hood College's Covid-19 policies can be found here.](#)
3. BYM will have a limited number of rapid Covid tests on-hand at Annual Session but cannot guarantee their availability for all. Friends are encouraged to bring a rapid test with them in the event they begin to feel unwell or if there is a need to test due to reported exposure.
4. In the event a Friend feels unwell, we ask them to test, either with a self-administered rapid test or through local medical care. BYM will maintain a list of urgent care providers offering PCR tests. Please call or text the General Secretary immediately at 301-658-3379 if you have a positive result. Every effort will be made to keep your information private while also protecting the community.
5. Annual Session and its participants will abide by any public health recommendations made by the Frederick County Department of Public Health that exceed the BYM Annual Session Covid Policy detailed above - up to and including cancellation of in-person Annual Session activities.

The Annual Session Covid Policies are subject to revision by the BYM Program Committee and General Secretary. Any revisions will be shared with all registered participants in advance. Young Friends and Junior Yearly Meeting may opt for their own Covid policies, which will be communicated to all participants and their parents.

Your participation, and the participation of any minor children under your care, is voluntary. While the precautions above will be followed and enforced, BYM cannot guarantee that Friends will not be exposed to the SARs Covid-19 virus or other illnesses.