

COVID-19 FAQs



We have collected the most Frequently Asked Questions you might have when it comes to joining our in-person EmpathyXchange summit during a pandemic.

1. COVID-19

1.1 Do I need to be fully vaccinated to join the CXC EmpathyXchange summit?

All participants will need to either provide **proof of full vaccination or a negative PCR test** no more than 48 hours before your arrival to Germany. The costs of the PCR test will be reimbursed by ChangemakerXchange. Also, upon arrival, ALL participants will take an official state ‘quick test’ and will complete a self-test on Day 3 of the summit, in addition to daily temperature checks.

1.2 What do you mean by “proof of full vaccination”?

Proof of full vaccination as defined in the COVID-19 Protective Measures Exemption Directive and the Directive on Coronavirus Entry Regulations:

1. Either consists of the number of doses of vaccine published herein required for complete protective vaccination and at least 14 days have elapsed since the last required single vaccination; or
2. In the case of a recovered person, consists of one administered dose of vaccine.

Proof of complete vaccination protection must be available in embodied or digital form in German, English, French, Italian or Spanish.

1.3 Which are the accepted vaccines?

Requirements for full vaccine protection with one vaccine:

- Comirnaty (Authorisation No. EU/1/20/1528) by BioNTech Manufacturing GmbH (2 doses)
- Spikevax (Authorisation No. EU/1/20/1507) by Moderna Biotech Spain, S.L. (2 doses)
- Vaxzevria (Authorisation No. EU/1/21/1529) by AstraZeneca AB, Schweden (2 doses)
- COVID-19 Vaccine Janssen (Authorisation No. EU/1/20/1525) by Janssen-Cilag International NV (1 dose)

Requirements for complete vaccine protection with different vaccines (heterologous vaccination scheme):

- Vaccination 1: Vaxzevria (Authorisation No. EU/1/21/1529) and Vaccination 2: Comirnaty (Authorisation No. EU/1/20/1528).
- Vaccination 1: Vaxzevria (Authorisation No. EU/1/21/1529) and Vaccination 2: Spikevax (Authorisation No. EU/1/20/1507).

More information can be found [here](#).

1.4 Do I have to be quarantined upon entering Germany?

Under the new Ordinance on Coronavirus Entry Regulations, persons entering Germany following a stay in a risk area, high incidence area, or area of variant of concern in the last 10 days must:

- Proceed directly to their destination following entry and
- Self-isolate there for 10 days (quarantine). After a stay in an area of variant of concern, travellers must self-isolate for 14 days rather than 10 days.
- During this quarantine, travellers may not leave their lodging or receive guests.

More information can be found [here](#).

1.5 What happens if I test positive a few days before the CXC EmpathyXchange summit?

You must inform us of this immediately and unfortunately, **you would not be able to attend** the CXC EmpathyXchange summit. If this were the case, we would keep in close touch with you and see if you can join another CXC summit and the CXC community at some point in the future.

1.6 What happens if I start showing COVID-19 symptoms during the CXC EmpathyXchange summit?

If you start showing COVID-19 symptoms (feverish pathology with a temperature over 37.5°C or 99.5°F, dry cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue or muscle aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, conjunctivitis, nausea or vomiting, or diarrhea) during the summit, you should inform the CXC hosting team right away.

- Isolation room:** You will be asked to isolate in a designated isolation room right away to avoid contact with other people.
- Quick test:** You will then be asked to complete a quick test, which will be available on site.
- PCR test:** In the event that the quick test is positive, you will be transported to complete a PCR test and will be given guidance and support on how to seek further treatment if this is also positive.
- Contact tracing:** We would attempt to contact all people (team members, summit participants, and suppliers) who are at risk of infection through contact with infected persons.
- Deep cleaning:** We would conduct deep cleaning and disinfection anytime an active team member or summit participants tests positive for COVID-19. This is a more comprehensive cleaning done by a third party.

1.7 What COVID-19 precautions are you taking for the summit?

We take your health and safety extremely seriously. This is why we are taking the precautions below to minimise any risk of COVID-19 transmission during the event.

- All participants must show proof of valid travel and health insurance that covers the region of travel and includes COVID-19 treatment.
- All participants must show either proof of full vaccination or a recent PCR negative test (costs to be covered by ChangemakerXchange) to be able to join the summit and travel to Cologne.
- All participants must fill out and sign a COVID-19 self-declaration form no longer than 48 hours before the CXC EmpathyXchange summit.
- All participants will also complete a state 'quick test' before boarding the bus to Attendorn and a self-test on Day 3 of the summit at the location.
- Any participant who shows COVID-19 symptoms will be asked to self-isolate, take a quick test, and if positive, take a PCR test.
- All participants will be asked to complete regular temperature checks during the summit.
- All participants are accommodated in single rooms and nobody will be sharing.
- All participants are asked to follow local guidelines on the use of facemasks (to be confirmed depending on advice at the time of the event) and FFP2 masks will be provided by ChangemakerXchange.



- Summit activities will be facilitated outdoors (whenever possible) or in large and well-ventilated meeting rooms.
- Summit activities that will take place indoors will avoid close physical proximity or physical touch between participants. Participants are asked to refrain from shaking hands, high-fiving, or hugging.
- Hand sanitiser dispensers and tissues will be visibly displayed around the venue.
- All participants will receive a briefing at the start of the summit on the COVID-19 measures taken to make the summit safe for everyone.

The CXC hosting team has a detailed preparedness and response plan with detailed scenarios in the event that any participant tests positive for COVID-19 during the EmpathyXchange summit.

1.8 What happens if I test positive a few days after the CXC summit?

If you experience COVID-19 symptoms after the event (up to 14 days after), it is very important that you complete a PCR test wherever you are based (costs to be reimbursed by ChangemakerXchange). If the test result comes back positive, **please inform the summit hosting team ASAP** so we can start the contact tracing and inform all other participants so they can take any necessary steps.

1.9 Who covers the costs of the quick tests and PCR tests?

ChangemakerXchange will cover the costs of the quick tests and PCR tests associated to the EmpathyXchange summit (i.e. PCR test before entering Germany, quick test upon arrival and on Day 3 of the summit, quick test during the summit if you show any COVID-19 symptoms, PCR test if the quick test shows a positive result, and PCR test after the summit if you show any COVID-19 symptoms).

1.10 Who can I contact if I have more questions about COVID-19 precautions at the CXC EmpathyXchange summit?

Please reach out to us at healthandsafety@changemakerxchange.org.

2. Travelling

2.1 Who covers the cost of my transportation to the summit?

Participants are asked to **cover their own transportation costs to Cologne**, Germany. ChangemakerXchange will cover all other costs associated with the summit, such as: accommodation, catering, local transportation, room hire, equipment & material, facilitation & hosting costs, COVID-19 quick tests, PPF2 masks, etc.

Please note that your spot in the summit will be fully confirmed only AFTER we have received confirmation of your transportation to Cologne.

2.2 What happens if I cannot afford the trip?

We always strive to make our summits accessible and inclusive so if your circumstances do not allow you to afford the trip to Cologne, please state so in the application form. We will evaluate the possibility of offering you a partial or full stipend to ensure you can join the summit.

2.3 Can I arrive earlier / stay later?

Yes, you are welcome to arrive earlier and/or stay later, but bear in mind you are **100% responsible for any expenses on these extra days** (e.g. lodging, food, transportation, etc.). The only exception is if there are no suitable connections and you have to arrive the day before or depart the day after the summit dates. In this case, ChangemakerXchange would cover the lodging cost for the extra night.

2.4 Can I come by train / bus?

Yes, absolutely! We highly encourage you to seek alternative travelling routes that do not include flying (or minimise it). Here are a few guiding principles:

- Is the route safe?** If not, please avoid travel by road as your safety is important to us!
- How long does it take?** If it is up to 9-hours during the day or 12-hours with a night journey, it's doable!
- How much does it cost?** Sometimes trains are more expensive than planes and whilst you can pay more for a more sustainable choice, it does not make sense to pay an outrageous amount because with the money you would be saving from the flight vs. train ride, you can not only offset emissions, but also make other sustainable choices during the summit.

2.5 Can I travel with my spouse / partner / child?

We generally advise against this because the summit is an intense experience that requires your full presence and contribution. However, exceptional circumstances may require exceptions to this rule to ensure inclusivity. Please reach out to the summit hosting team if this is your case, but please bear in mind that CXC will not cover the costs associated with their travel, lodging, and catering.

2.6 Can I join only part of the summit (e.g. arrive later or leave earlier)?

Unfortunately, no. The ChangemakerXchange summit is an intense and enriching experience that makes sense if undertaken from start to end. This means we can only accept applicants who can commit to the full duration of the summit. Also, we will only



allow participants who have joined all sessions on all days into the ChangemakerXchange community.

2.7 What happens if I miss my flight/train/bus?

If you miss your flight/train/bus connection because of a problem with the first flight/train/bus, the airline/train/bus company should rebook you on the next first available flight/train/bus. If this requires an overnight stay, the company should also provide you with accommodation options and food.

However, if you miss your flight/train/bus for your own doing (e.g. alarm didn't ring and you woke up late, you got stuck in traffic and arrived late, etc.), it will be your responsibility to book (and cover the cost of) another ticket. Importantly, if you miss the flight/train/bus to the country of the summit, it is imperative they reach out to the airline/train/bus company to prevent them from cancelling your return ticket too (usually that's what happens).

2.8 Shall I book refundable or non-refundable tickets?

Considering the unpredictability of the pandemic, we advise you to book refundable tickets so that you have more flexibility in the event that you test positive and cannot travel anymore or your trip is cancelled due to COVID-19 entry restrictions to the country.

2.9 Shall I book travel and health insurance?

Yes! Please ensure you have valid travel and health insurance that covers the region of travel and includes COVID-19 treatment. You will be asked to send a proof of your insurance to the summit hosting team.

2.10 My luggage is delayed, what should I do?

The airline/train/bus company should inform you of when they can deliver the luggage to you when they find it. However, to minimise the inconvenience created by this eventuality, we advise you to pack a few clothes in your hand luggage so that you have a few clean changes!

3. Visas

3.1 Can you call the embassy / consulate to push for my application?

Whilst we do everything we can to support your visa application by providing you with an invitation letter, hotel confirmation, and temporary flight reservation if needed, please know that we cannot call the embassies / consulates to push for your visa. You are responsible for your visa application process.

3.2 Can you translate the invitation letter into German?

Yes, some embassies and consulates require the invitation letter to also be translated in the language of the hosting country. If necessary, we will provide you with a translation of the invitation letter into German.

3.3 Can you reimburse my visa expenses?

No, you are responsible for covering the costs associated with the visa processes. However, we have made exceptions for participants who have received a stipend and would incur in high visa costs. If this is your case, please contact the summit hosting team.

3.4 Which visa should I apply for?

From past experience, the best visa type you should apply for is a tourist visa. Sometimes, you may decide to apply for a business visa, but usually this requires additional documents from the hosting organisation. Make sure you check with the summit hosting team before applying!

3.5 I didn't get my visa, what should I do?

Unfortunately, at times participants do not get their visa approved. If you have enough time to re-apply, please try again (as long as you were told why your application was rejected and what you can do to overcome the issues). If not, you will need to withdraw your participation in the summit. We will consider you for a future summit, should you wish to attend again in the future.

3.6. If I didn't get my visa and, therefore, failed to participate in a summit, would I secure my place in the future CXC summit?

It is a bit ad-hoc as it depends on the type of summit, but we either forward your application to future hosts to consider you, or ask you to re-apply entirely. Unfortunately, we cannot guarantee that you will be accepted again.