News from Norwescon - April 26 2022



## Norwescon 44 Post-Con COVID Report 1

(Note: This message is being emailed to all Norwescon 44 attendees in addition to our usual mailing list. If you do not normally get messages from Norwescon, this will be one of the only times you hear from us — but if you would like to get regular updates as we return to hosting in-person gatherings throughout the year and as we plan for Norwescon 45, please <u>sign</u> <u>up for our e-newsletter</u>.)

While we did our best, we knew that 100% protection was unlikely. In addition to encouraging all of our attendees to use the <u>WA Notify</u> exposure notification system for the fastest possible exposure notifications (or similar local system for those of you who visited from out-of-state), we have also asked our attendees to <u>let us know of any positive test results</u> received at or within two weeks following Norwescon 44.

The Norwescon COVID safety team would like to extend our sincere appreciation to all of you who helped us keep Norwescon 44 as safe as possible. All attending staff, members, pros, panelists, performers, artists, and dealers were vaccinated, and masking was followed well by everyone.

These are the reports we have received as of Monday, April 25:

## Cases 1-4 (received as of 4/25/22):

**Case 1:** Reported status to the hotel on the first day of the convention (April 14) and stayed quarantined to their hotel room for the duration of the convention. The hotel passed the information along to us.

Case 2: Reported on Thursday, April 21. Started experiencing symptoms and

tested positive on April 19 (two days post-con). At-con time was spent at panels in the Cascade rooms, occasionally on the first floor/lobby area, and the elevator to their tower room. Reported case to the Health Department and had exposure notification tracking active.

**Case 3:** Reported on Friday, April 22. Started experiencing symptoms on Tuesday, April 12 (two days pre-con), tested positive on Friday, April 15, and stayed at the convention through Sunday, April 17. Was present throughout the convention, particularly the space-focused panels, and had dinner at Denny's on Friday. Reported case to the Health Department and did not have exposure notification tracking active.

**Case 4:** Reported on Saturday, April 23. Started experiencing symptoms and tested positive on Wednesday, April 20 (three days post-con). Wandered around the convention but stayed distanced as much as possible. Reported case to the Health Department and had exposure notification tracking active.

## **Other Notes**

As part of our COVID safety protocols, we aimed for a 1,000 person cap for Norwescon 44, including all staff, members, and attendees. Because there are always some adjustments in the final approach to con in attending pros, panelists, performers, artists, and dealers, and because we were also managing a waitlist to account for members who either chose not to attend in person or hoped to acquire a vacated membership, we were allowing for up to a 10% variance (up to 1,100) in final on-site attendees.

Our final on-site attendance count was 1,010, putting us at 1% over our target cap.

During the convention, we received one report of a WA Notify "potential exposure" notification from one of our panelists, who then stepped away from their remaining panels and left the convention. They have not notified us of any subsequent positive test results, and we thank them for stepping away when they learned of possible exposure.

## Conclusion

We would once again like to thank all our attendees for their consideration and concern for their fellow attendees and Norwescon as a whole. In addition to the on-site safety protocols, we had several members who let us know shortly before the convention that they had either tested positive or simply were not feeling well and who released their in-person memberships. We thank all of you for your assistance in helping to protect the Norwescon community.

We will keep our <u>COVID Positive Report Form</u> open through May 2 (14 days following the Monday after the convention, to account for our volunteers who stay on-site to help break down and load out the convention). We ask all our

attendees to continue to keep an eye out for any symptoms, self-test if at all concerned, and <u>let us know of any positive results</u>.

We will issue at least one update to this report with any further received reports following the closure of the reporting form. More updates may be released before then if there is need.

Thank you all for a wonderful Norwescon 44, and we look forward to seeing you again at Norwescon 45, April 6–9, 2023, at the DoubleTree by Hilton Seattle Airport!

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Visit our Website

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