

API Summer School COVID Policy

16 December 2021
Dr David Pointing, CEO



Keeping our community safe

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the safety of our employees, contractors, suppliers, customers and the wider community has been, and continues to be, our key priority. The API Summer School is a potential risk for our member organisations in that it involves 50+ participants and 60+ speakers coming together from across Australia for an extended 10-day period, with visits to external sites through site tours. We are actively working to manage the risk of COVID impacting the School, and of the School impacting our community. As such the Summer School has already been rescheduled twice but we are confident that the planned School in April-May 2022 will proceed. In order to ensure this scheduled School has the best chance of going ahead and as safely as possible, we are implementing the following policies. Note these policies may change as the circumstances evolve. Details of what happens if participation in the School is impacted by COVID are detailed on page 2.

Vaccination requirements for participants in the 2022 Summer School

It is anticipated that key stakeholders involved in the Summer School will require all of their staff and any visitors to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 or to otherwise hold formal medical exemptions. On this basis and given the potential impacts on the ability of School participants to attend or to participate in core activities (such as site tours) if not meeting these requirements, we are requiring all participants, speakers and API staff involved in the 2022 Summer School to be fully vaccinated or otherwise hold a formal medical exemption. All API core staff currently meet this requirement.

COVID testing linked to participation in the Summer School

It is a possibility that COVID testing in some form may be requested of everyone involved in the School, including prior to travel to the School and upon arrival, and prior to participating in site tours. We will monitor the situation as it and the requirements of our stakeholders evolve, but we are preparing to have rapid antigen self-tests available at the School for this purpose and will clarify their intended use closer to the School start date. We also anticipate that everyone attending the School (participants, speakers, API staff and contractors) will need to complete a self-test prior to travelling, and purchase of the self-test for use prior to travel will be the responsibility of the individuals (note that tests cost ~\$15).

COVID management and testing linked to participation by guests in closing events of the Summer School

The closing days of the Summer School are currently planned to include an additional 70+ individuals joining with the Summer School community (60+ undergrads and graduates in the Powerful Women Early Career program, the API Board, and others) for a Future Workforce Forum and the Summer School Dinner. We will monitor the situation and the requirements and expectations of our

participants and stakeholders regarding how the risks associated with introducing this new community of people to the 50+ participants in the Summer School are best managed, including specific management actions (eg masks) and potential self-testing requirements in line with those required of Summer School participants and speakers.

Changes to and Cancellation of the 2022 Summer School due to COVID impacts

The possibility remains high that an individual's participation in the School or the delivery of the whole program may be impacted by COVID in some way, although we are optimistic that the situation will improve by April 2022.

We have a detailed risk assessment in place (and executed twice) to cover a range of scenarios impacting the School and individuals. Key elements to note include:

1. We have no plans to run the School as a fully online program as an alternative to the live event – consistent feedback from participants is that rescheduling the live event is the preferred option.
2. If an individual student is unable to attend the School due to COVID, we will support their rescheduling to the next Summer School. Note some costs may be incurred by the individual, but the scope of this will depend on the timing of the decision relative to the start of the School and the policy of the venue and other providers on deferral of costs.
3. If an individual student is unable to attend the School, we may invite their participation in some online sessions but will not be specifically configuring our delivery to support students participating online.
4. If an individual speaker is unable to travel due to COVID, we will either support them to deliver their presentation online or switch to an alternate speaker or activity. Our goal is to have our speakers and workshop facilitators attending and contributing in person.
5. If the whole School needs to be rescheduled, it is anticipated that this will be done without any costs transferred to participants (as has been the case previously) but will be influenced by the timing of the decision and policies of the venue and other suppliers. Some costs may be transferred to participants and a partial refund or partial credit for the next School may be provided to participants.
6. If participants in the School are required to enter into quarantine in the Summer School venue during the School, the API will cover the costs of accommodation until the scheduled end of the School, with the remainder to be addressed by the participant and their employer (except for participants on a full scholarship from the API). The API will review our costs for the delivery of the School and the quarantine component and will potentially provide partial credit to participants towards registration for a replacement Summer School program. There is a possibility that participants will have their School end early and have the additional expense of needing to quarantine in Adelaide, but the API will do everything possible to minimize the chances of this happening.
7. All participants in the School are encouraged to clarify with their employer and travel booking facilities how urgent changes to their travel arrangements can be facilitated if a “leave now or go into quarantine” situation emerges during the School. The responsibility for making changes to travel arrangements (including costs) rests with the individuals.