



# 2022 Bee Week COVID Protocol FAQ

## COVID TESTING REQUIREMENT FOR SPELLERS

**Who is an onsite COVID test required for?**

At this time, testing is required for spellers and members of Bee Week staff and television production staff only.

**Why is this mandate in place?**

We have said from the start of the pandemic that the health and safety of our attendees, event staff and employees would be at the forefront of all decisions for the national competition. Additionally, production crew unions and representatives made us aware of their advised safety precautions related to COVID. We worked together to put those into place.

**Is testing required for any other members of the speller's party?**

At this time, testing is required for the speller only. The speller testing should be completed by 3 p.m. on Monday, May 30.

**Will any additional testing be required after Monday, May 30?**

While none is currently planned, this is a developing situation and more testing may be required.

**If I test positive, can I test a second time?**

Yes, you may request a second test to verify a positive result.

**Can I test a third time?**

If you receive one positive and one negative result, you may request a third test. Two negative results are required to be verified negative. If you receive two positive results, that will be considered a verified positive.

**Can I double or triple mask and come out and compete and then go right back into quarantine?**

No.

**Will the Bee still cover our expenses?**

Yes, the Bee will cover the same expenses it would cover if a speller were fully participating.

## TESTING PROCESS AND RESULTS

**When will speller COVID tests be administered?**

The first step in the speller registration process on Monday, May 30, will be COVID testing. The speller and at least one parent should report to the Hall of Champions outside the Maryland Ballroom at the Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center at their pre-selected registration time.

**Who will administer the test to spellers?**

All tests will be performed by Kwokman Diagnostics. A parent or guardian must accompany the speller to the test. Pre-register here: [ttcintake.kdpassport.com](https://ttcintake.kdpassport.com).

**What is involved in the test?**

A nurse will take a nasal swab, which will be run in a Rapid PCR Accula machine.

**How long will it take to get results?**

Results will be delivered in approximately 30 minutes from the time of testing.

### **How will attendees find out if someone at the Bee has tested positive for COVID?**

The Bee will not share personal health information.

### **If a speller tests positive for COVID, how will they find out?**

The parent of the speller will learn the results of their test via email including a PDF of the results. The testing company will also inform the Bee of this result, as agreed to in the testing documentation. A representative from the Bee will call the speller's parent to talk through next steps.

### **If a speller tests positive for COVID, what will the speller and family need to do?**

The speller and family should follow the protocol set forth by the Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center.

### **What happens if a speller loses or damages their wristband indicating a negative COVID test result?**

They should return to the testing area to receive a replacement wristband.

## **SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS**

### **Can a speller provide their own test results?**

No, the only tests accepted will be onsite tests administered by Kwokman Diagnostics. The only exception to this is for a speller who tested positive for COVID within the past 90 days: providing a positive lab-based PCR test result from the past 90 days will exempt a speller from testing.

### **What if a speller tests positive due to recently recovering from COVID?**

Anyone who has recovered from COVID in the past 90 days will be exempted from testing. They must provide documented proof to the COVID testing manager of a positive lab-based PCR test. Email [contact@spellingbee.com](mailto:contact@spellingbee.com) for instructions on submitting documentation. Do not send your documentation directly to us; we will provide instructions after you contact us.

### **Are there any exceptions to the speller testing requirement?**

All spellers must be tested. A negative COVID test is required for all spellers on Monday, May 30, to participate in any Bee Week event including the competition. The only exception is if a speller provides documented proof of a positive lab-based PCR test from within the past 90 days to the COVID testing manager.

### **If a speller tests positive, can they compete virtually?**

The 2022 Scripps National Spelling Bee is a fully in-person competition with no virtual elements. If a speller tests positive for COVID-19, they will not be able to compete or participate in Bee Week events.

### **Why not? There have been virtually competitions in the past.**

Those were fully virtual competitions. A hybrid of in-person and virtual competition within the same competition segment would not afford equal competition circumstances to all participants.

### **If a speller tests positive, will they automatically receive entry into the 2023 Scripps National Spelling Bee?**

No. If your speller tests positive, they will not automatically receive entry into the 2023 Scripps National Spelling Bee. Each August a new Bee Cycle begins. Your speller will need to win a 2023 final local spelling bee to qualify for the 2023 Scripps National Spelling Bee and must meet all eligibility guidelines for participating in 2023 including age and grade requirements.

## **MASKING REQUIREMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **Where and when are masks required?**

Masks are required for spellers onstage (except while actively competing) and in the backstage areas (except while actively being interviewed). Masks are also required for family members of Semifinalist and Finalist spellers when in the backstage area. Masks are required at Planet Word, the museum spellers and parents will visit on Tuesday of Bee Week. Please note that, as this is a developing situation, mask requirements are subject to change.

### **Where and when are masks recommended?**

Masks are recommended for all Bee Week attendees at all events, both onsite and offsite. Please note that, as this is a developing situation, mask requirements are subject to change.

### **Can my speller wear a mask onstage while competing?**

Your speller is required to wear a mask while seated onstage. We will, however, ask that they briefly remove their mask when they are at the microphone so that our officials have the best chance to judge their performance accurately.

## **TESTING REQUIREMENT FOR BEE STAFF**

### **What is the requirement for staff working the event?**

All Bee Week staff and television production staff will be tested upon arrival at the Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center. From that point on, staff members with duties in the stage and television production areas will be required to test every 48 hours. Staff will be required to mask in the stage and television production areas, and strongly encouraged to mask in all other Bee Week areas.