



## **OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

### **COVID-19 Policies for the 52<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly November 18<sup>th</sup>- 21<sup>st</sup>, 2021**

Dear Members of TISL,

Many of you have reached out in the past few days to inquire about our COVID-19 policies for the coming in-person General Assembly on November 18<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>. At the beginning of August, the Executive Council implemented an anticipatory policy which stated that we would revisit and finalize our policies closer to the event, in order to best reflect the data and information available to us. As of October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2021 that policy has been finalized.

As we discussed the best path forward, it was clear that there were a variety of interests, viewpoints, risks, and questions that needed to be addressed. This policy was drafted using data from the [Tennessee State Government Unified Command COVID Dashboard](#), prevention guidance from the [TN Department of Health](#), and an in-depth review of the different COVID prevention policies currently in place at nearly every Tennessee college or university. In addition to the state and national guidance on COVID safety, we have endeavored to reflect the vast majority of policies of Tennessee's colleges and universities to keep in line with your experience on campus. The policy below was decided with both the safety of delegates and the integrity and success of the General Assembly in mind.

#### **Masks**

In the State Capitol building, the Tennessee Supreme Court building, as well as the Cordell Hull State Office building, **masks are required to be worn at all times by all delegates, advisers, officers, and visitors**. The Cordell Hull State Office building's policy states that masks are required by visitors at all times, and it is simplest to extend this policy to the State Capitol property to maintain continuity between the different components of TISL.

Delegates may remove their masks for the purposes of actively eating/drinking, and while actively participating in speech or debate. Participation in speech or debate may include, but is not limited to, recognition in the House or Senate chambers or oral arguments in the AMC3 competition.

In accordance with guidance from the TN Department of Health and from the [Center for Disease Control](#), wearing a mask properly means that it is worn over both the nose and mouth and snugly fits the sides of your face. Delegates should bring more than one mask to the event if at all possible. Spare masks of a limited quantity will be made available at no cost at the TISL Store in case of an emergency.

The different types of masks that satisfy this requirement include surgical/disposable masks, cloth masks, and N-95 respirators. Face shields are not approved masks for the General Assembly.

#### **Social Distancing**

In the State Capitol building, the Tennessee Supreme Court building, as well as the Cordell Hull State Office building, **delegates, advisers, officers, and visitors are encouraged to social distance whenever possible**. While there is only so much room in a given space, members of TISL should make every attempt to be aware of their proximity to others and mitigate risks wherever possible.

# TENNESSEE INTERCOLLEGIATE STATE LEGISLATURE

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## **Delegations & The Hotel**

Because of the complexities associated with hotel logistics and booking hotel rooms, as well as the fact that the hotel is a non-exclusive TISL location where other members of the public are present, we ask that delegations consider the best solution to mitigate risks at the DoubleTree hotel on a college-by-college basis and decide what COVID precautions works best for their circumstances and for the safety of other students. As the simplest solution, we urge head delegates and advisers to follow their on-campus policies. The Tri-Star Social's policies will be determined by the presenting sponsor, Middle Tennessee State University.

## **Implementing COVID Policies During the General Assembly**

The required masking policy is enforced through the dress code of TISL, promulgated under Article VI, Section 2, Subsection(s) (e) and (f) of the TISL Constitution. If this dress code is breached, a complaint will be directed to the Sergeant of Arms for the Legislature, the Clerk & Marshall for AMC3, the Lobbying Director, and/or the Media Director, as appropriate.

If the offender, after discussions with the appropriate officer or other TISL officers of the respective TISL programs, refuses to comply with the dress code, the offender, the offender's head delegate, advisor, and the State Treasurer will then be notified of the violation.

It is the Advisor's and/or Head Delegate's primary responsibility to ensure their delegation's compliance with all TISL rules, regulations, and instructions, along with all rules and regulations instituted by their college or university, for the duration of General Assembly.

## **Symptomatic Individuals & Informal Considerations**

We have dealt with the COVID-19 virus and its variants for enough time for attendees to know the symptoms of the virus, though specifics may also be found [here](#). If you think you are exhibiting even some symptoms, we encourage you to get tested in advance of the General Assembly. Attendees exhibiting COVID symptoms immediately prior to the event and on the day(s) of, or those who have already tested positive, are strongly urged to reconsider their attendance to protect the wellbeing of other students and attendees. Missing one year of TISL is worth the prevention of a potential super spreader event that may affect all colleges and universities of Tennessee.

Additionally, while TISL is implementing a formal policy, it is just as important, if not more so, for delegations and students to monitor their own behavior and act in the best interests of the TISL community. Though you may not wear masks on a consistent basis on or off campus, know that there are delegates to whom COVID presents a higher risk than others. Wearing your mask properly and following COVID safety protocols for the brief duration of a four-day event is the best way to protect and respect these attendees and the well-being of others.

Please feel free to contact [StateOffice@TISLonline.org](mailto:StateOffice@TISLonline.org) with any questions or concerns. We would be happy to assist with any issue.

Sincerely,



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