

FACTSHEET COVID-19 FAI-CIMP February 2021

The FAI strongly encourages to organize air sports events, provided that this can be done safely and according the local and international rules on the pandemic.

The FAI has 4 key points in managing the threat of the corona virus, to stop spreading the virus and to protect members, participants, crew, others involved in air sports.

1. To organise competitions in a safe environment for everyone
2. Vaccination priority should be given to vulnerable groups and everyone who is keeping our society safe
3. To encourage all participants who are offered vaccination, to accept, also as an act of solidarity with the host and fellow participants
4. Vaccination will not be obligatory

The facts:

- The Corona virus will still be among us for a longer period
- In most countries worldwide, the pandemic still is expanding
- The situation will be changing continuously, in time and place
- Measures to prevent further spread are different organized, depending on the local situation
- New variants of the virus are present with different qualities, other new variants will come

Transmission:

- Transmission of the virus can be slowed down, but not completely stopped in the next months.
- In outdoor activities, very low rates of infections are found, even in contact sports. So the FAI strongly encourage to allow outdoor activities/competitions
- After vaccination the risk to become ill by the coronavirus is lowered, but it is not clear yet if transmission will be prevented
- 30-50% of all infections are transmitted by people without complaints, either being infected without showing any symptoms, either not yet symptomatic

Forecast:

- Forecasts and timelines vary, depending on many continuously changing factors
- Behavioural changes may have a large influence on the spread
- Back-to-normal will be possible when the majority of the society will be immune, by being infected or by vaccination. For COVID-19 a vaccination rate of 70-80% will be necessary. Before this is fully achieved, activities may be possible again on a limited scale
- Measures as quarantines, testing, use of Personal Protection Equipment, distancing and hygienics will still be necessary, also after vaccination

Unknown:

- Duration of immunity after infection or vaccination
- Effectivity of vaccines on new variants
- Development of manufacturing, supply and transports of vaccines, vaccination logistics
- Politics
- Unpredictability on national and international level to be considered when organizing events
- To end the pandemic, the virus must be eliminated worldwide, which most scientists agree is near-impossible