

Sight Loss Council Conference

Conference Aston 8th – 10th October

Health & Safety Information

All Sight Loss Council conference delegates will receive a delegate pack providing information about the programme for the conference. This will include an FAQ. Below you will find the questions that relate to health & safety. These are repeated in the FAQ section of the pack.

There will be members of Thomas Pocklington Trust (TPT) staff and sighted guide volunteers at the conference ensuring everything runs smoothly and that any questions and concerns are dealt with. There will be assistance available as required to move between the sessions.

Each group session will include an explanation of what to do in an emergency. Assistance will be available outside of the conference programme times should this be needed. You will be provided with details of who to contact. In the first instance this should be your engagement manager.

From FAQ:

- **Will someone show me the fire evacuation procedure from my room?**

The fire evacuation will be explained in your delegate pack. You can also ask the venue to explain it to you when you arrive. For any group sessions the evacuation procedure will be explained at the start of the session.

- **What kind of assistance will be provided?**

There will be trained sighted guides available throughout the event. If you have requested a guide, we will make every effort to identify a guide to support you throughout the event. There will also be guides and

members of TPT staff around throughout the conference to offer and provide assistance if requested, to anyone who needs it.

- **Will I get assistance if I want to go off site?**

We do not encourage anyone to go off site unless it's absolutely necessary. Everything you should need for the weekend should be available onsite. For this reason, TPT cannot provide assistance off site unless you are making your way to and from the Conference itself. The only exception to this is to help guide dog owners spend their dogs.

- **Will any assistance be provided at the Awards?**

Yes. Assistance will be provided throughout the whole Conference, including the awards.

Covid related matters

- **What precautions are you taking to keep people safe from Covid at the Conference?**

We encourage everyone coming to the conference in person to take a lateral flow test, where possible. If you test positive, or if you are feeling unwell, you are asked to stay at home. Throughout the Conference itself, there will be antibacterial hand gel available throughout and we encourage people to wear masks, particularly when moving throughout the building. We will be reminding people of our expectations in the final email sent out to you a week before Conference.

- **What about if I am unable to take a lateral flow test before I travel? Or if I need assistance?**

There will be lateral flow tests available at the reception desk at Conference Aston, and there will be assistance available. Please note, if you test positive, you will not be able to join the Conference and will need to return home and arrange for a PCR test. You will be assisted with making your return travel arrangements.

- **What if I or someone else becomes ill during the Conference?**

If you become ill with Covid symptoms you will need to isolate and arrange a PCR test. A lateral flow test will be done, but these are not always accurate if you are already unwell. You will not be able to attend the rest of the Conference as we also need to protect the other delegates. We will help with organising your travel home.

If you are unwell with anything else, we will provide support to you in your room until you feel better, or help you make arrangements to return home.

- **If Covid infection rates soar between now and Conference, will you cancel?**

We will follow government guidelines at all times. If the advice is to cancel all events, then yes, we will cancel the Conference.

More information is provided in the next few pages relating to the health & safety arrangements at the conference centre itself.

If you have any further questions, please ask your Engagement Manager in the first instance, or email info@sightlosscouncils.org.uk.