

Registration: All in-person registered SPAH Convention attendees must be *Fully Vaccinated* at least two weeks prior to the start of the Convention. This includes members & guests, performers, vendors, and volunteers. *Fully Vaccinated*, as indicated by the US CDC, includes having one or two vaccinations depending on your vaccine, and ideally a booster shot. Your Convention registration will be subject to approval, after you send proof of full vaccination to the special SPAH email address HealthCheck@SPAH.org. We must receive your proof of vaccination no later than July 24th, 2022. Please ask each Convention registrant included in your Convention group to send proof of vaccination for themselves and their partner/spouse, and include the names in the email exactly as recorded in each registration for the Convention. We will acknowledge each submission by email, indicating your registration approval status.

All Convention registration options will be available for advance purchase, and you are encouraged to take advantage of the discounted early registration. In this issue, we have included registration details for: The hotel; Full Convention; Blues Blowoff; and Saturday events, as in the past.

Advance day tickets for each individual day (Wed-Fri) will be made available online about 3 months prior to the Convention. At this time, we will not be offering in-person registration at the Convention.

All in-person registrants for the *Full Convention* will also receive the credentials to access the Zoom Lounge as well as the seminar and show recordings for later viewing. If you are unable to attend in person, see below for on-line attendance options.

We encourage everyone who can attend in person to do so! We all need to be together with our harmonica friends again after 3 years of absence. SPAH needs you to be there in person. Together we will support the performers, presenters and our friends at the Tulsa Hyatt hotel, where we been treated so well over the past few years. If it is safe for you, please come.

If you have lost your complete vaccination record, here is one place US residents should be able to obtain a copy:

1. Go to: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/programs/iis/contacts-locate-records.html#state>
2. Select your US state
3. Input your information
4. Download a PDF of your record and submit to SPAH

If you do not use email, please ask a family member or friend to email your vaccination record to us. A paper copy of each registrants' vaccination record can also be sent in the mail along with your registration form.

Everyone will be required to sign a short waiver and release, acknowledging personal responsibility for their own health in participating in the SPAH Convention.

Safety: All of us recognize that playing a harmonica is a risky endeavor, involving heavy breathing with no mask protection. While all badged attendees will be fully vaccinated, giving each of us comfort as we again meet old & new friends, SPAH volunteers will work with the hotel to limit access to the SPAH Convention space only to those wearing a SPAH Convention badge.

In addition, we ask and strongly advise that you maintain *social distance of 6-12 feet*, and when you are in close quarters with your friends, performers, presenters & players, please help everyone by wearing an N95 or equivalent mask covering nose and mouth - except when playing, eating or drinking. This is to provide safety and security to you, your friends, and those playing nearby (who cannot wear a mask!) A surgical mask is also a good, but less protective alternative for some. Those wearing spectacles may reduce fogging by using cloth or silk tape where the mask crosses the bridge of the nose.

To reduce contact, the Hyatt Hotel also offers contactless hotel registration and smart phone room access when you use the *Hyatt app*. Please contact the Hyatt or download the Hyatt app from your app store for more details.

Thanks to one of our vendors, TurboHarp, the sound crew will be able to disinfect stage microphones using TurboHarp's UV Light and Ozone Sterilizer.

And, of course, common sense tells us that if you feel unwell, you should stay home, and if you feel unwell during the Convention, please stay in your room!

Online Access: Those unable to attend for any reason can register to join the proceedings online. SPAH will stream (and record) live broadcasts of most seminars and all evening shows on YouTube to registered "online" attendees, and provide a "Zoom Lounge" for impromptu gatherings and conversation between online and in-person attendees. YouTube recordings will be posted as soon as possible after each session ends so that you can watch at a later time.

Registration for online attendance will be made available in May, about 90 days prior to the start of the Convention. Pricing for online attendance will be published later, and will be comparable to the cost for in-person attendance, without travel and hotel costs of course.

All in-person, Full Convention registrants will be provided the streaming and recording links so they can watch later, and the Zoom link to meet friends in the "Lounge" during the proceedings.

Other Changes. In addition to these guidelines and policies, we are making changes to some events and gathering areas for your safety:

- more distance between chairs in the performance rooms
- ensuring adequate space in the vendor area (see below)
- limiting use of smaller seminar areas
- changes to evening jam sessions (see below)
- some performers may appear "virtually" on a large video screen on the stage
- the popular local Youth Outreach workshops held over the past few years will, sadly, not be included in the 2022 program.

Vendors: We expect the usual group of world-class vendors and sponsors in the exhibit area. There will undoubtedly be restrictions on touching and playing instruments, subject to the rules established by each vendor for your safety. If necessary, we will limit the number of people in the room at any time. Working with the hotel and vendors, we will allow for social distancing between booths.

Jams: Recognizing that the SPAH evening jams are a special opportunity for all to play, we have developed the following plan to protect our Jam hosts and participants, allowing for better airflow and social distancing. Evening Jams will be held only in larger meeting rooms and open

spaces. We are exploring the possibility of using outdoor locations. As a result, there may be fewer jams each evening, but everyone will have an opportunity to Jam during the Convention. We are also exploring other ways to keep you safe during the evening Jams.

In Conclusion: Our goal is *to keep everyone safe* so we can celebrate being together again in person as friends and colleagues, while continuing to include those who are unable to be with us in person. We must learn how to convene safely in this new world, so we have relied on the best available scientific and medical advice to make that happen: vaccinations, booster shots and masks protect us and our friends from serious illness and symptoms and allow us to enjoy a safe and friendly environment in Tulsa.

We are sure you will agree that these changes will allow you to join us safely as we reconvene in person in 2022. Please stay tuned to our website, www.SPAH.org, and SPAH emails for further details as the situation evolves.