

District 19 Tournament Survey Report

Introduction

District 19 conducted a survey among its membership to gauge interest for future tournaments. The survey was sent out to 5566 members on March 17 via ACBL Marketing Services (Pianola). The current roster shows a total of 5762 members, but not all have email addresses.

Members were asked three simple questions, the principal one being their intention to participate in three upcoming District regionals. Two subsidiary questions concerned their comfort level with covid cross-border restrictions, and their experience playing tournaments pre covid. Respondents could optionally leave comments as well as submit their email address to receive the survey report.

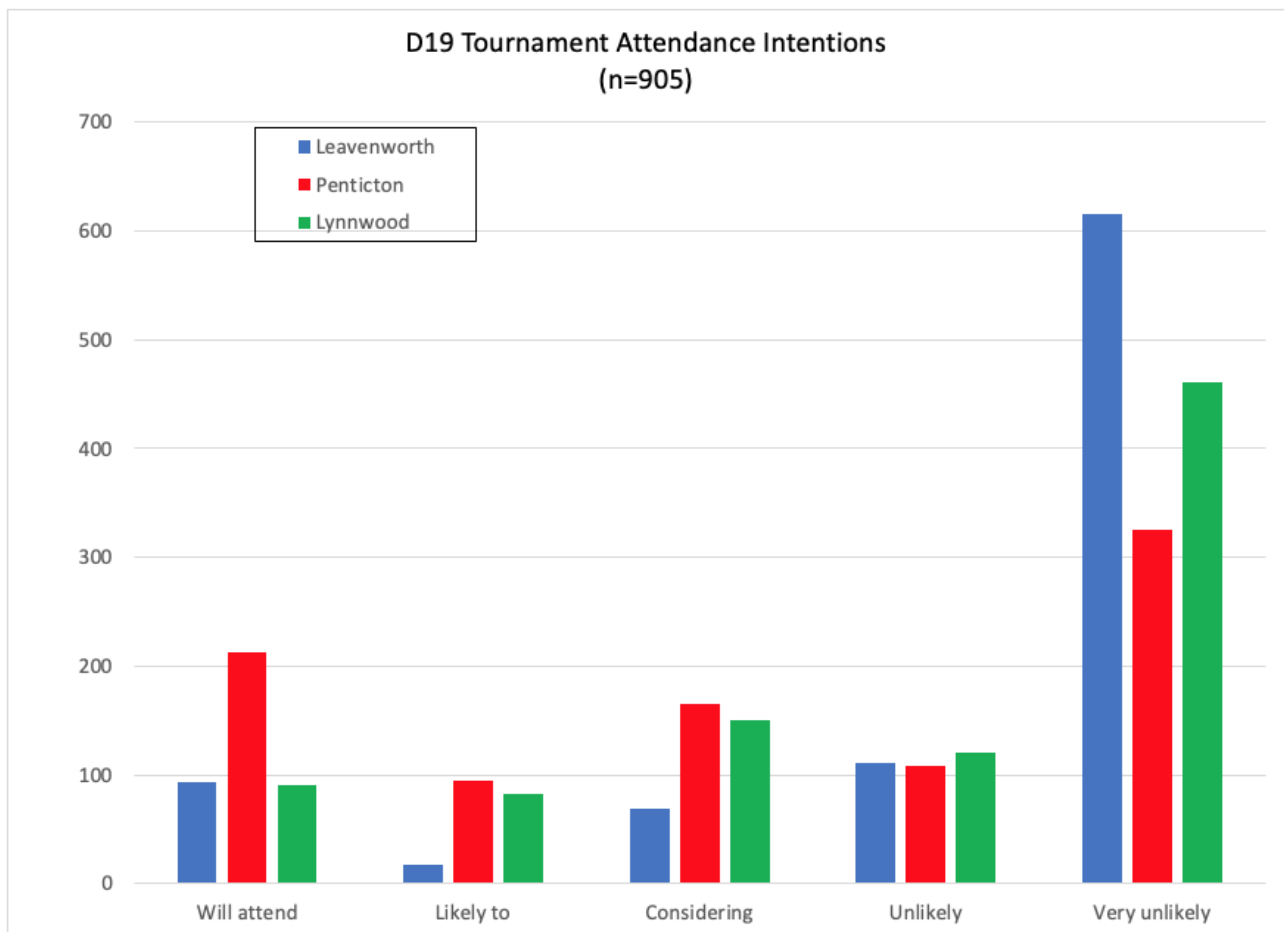
In the interest of providing timely information to the D19 board and future tournament organizers, an initial report was prepared using three days of survey data for a total of 862 responses. Eight days after launching the survey, 905 members had completed the survey. It is unlikely that further responses will yield significantly different information. This will therefore be the final survey report.

Results

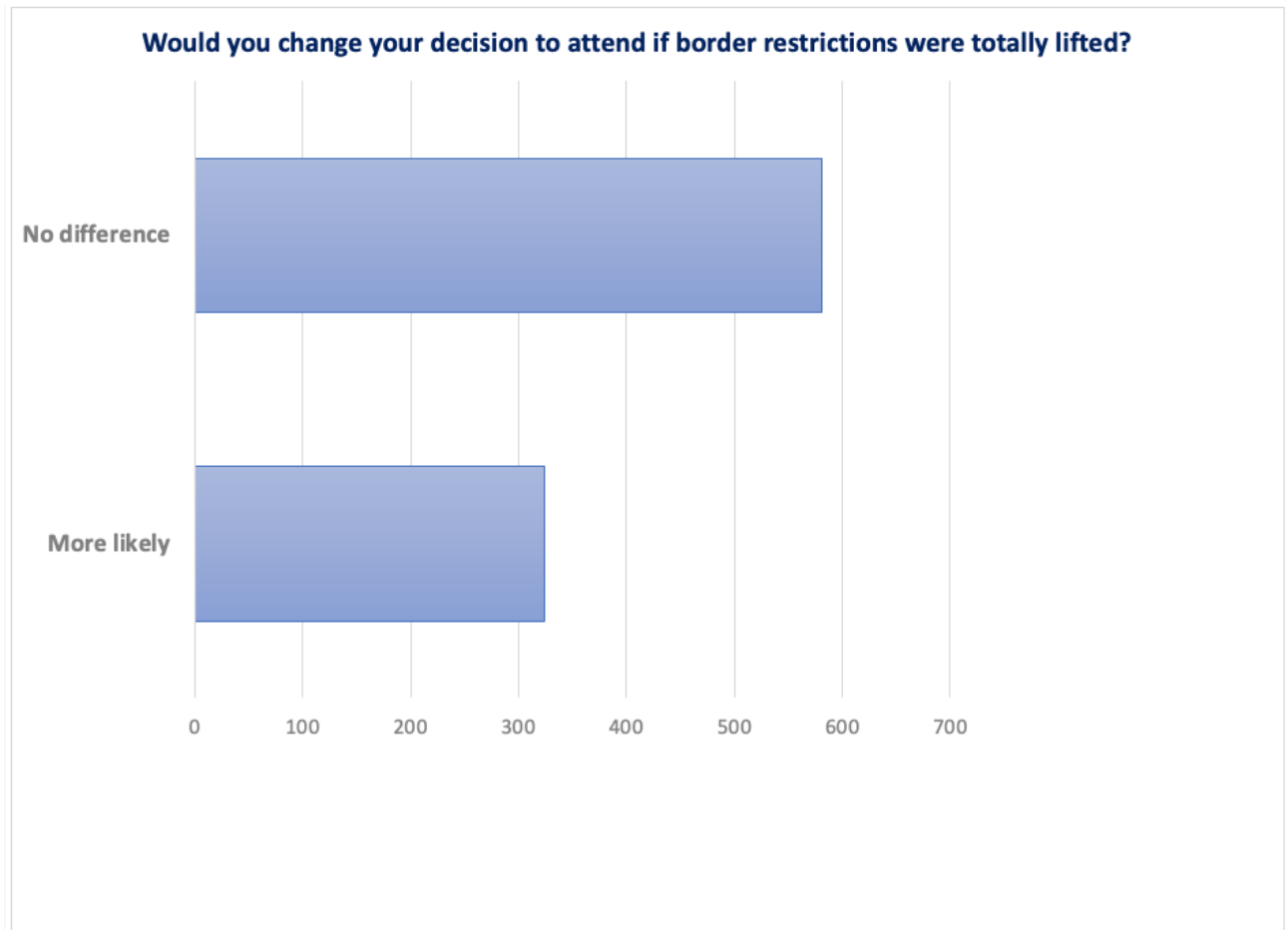
1) Attendance intentions:

Results are shown in both tabular and graphical formats.

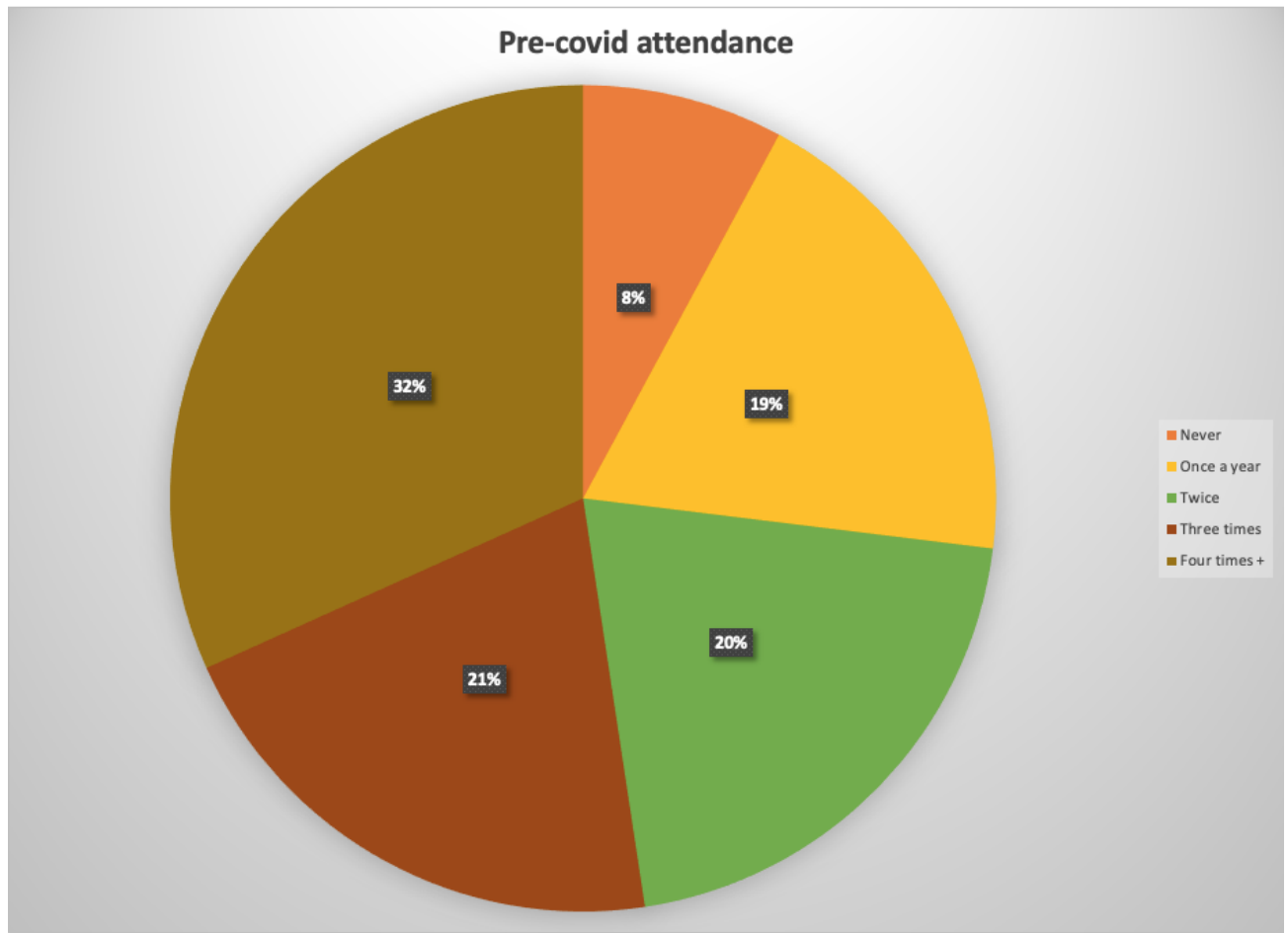
	Leavenworth	Penticton	Lynnwood
Will attend	93	212	91
Likely to	17	95	82
Considering	69	165	150
Unlikely	111	108	121
Very unlikely	615	325	461



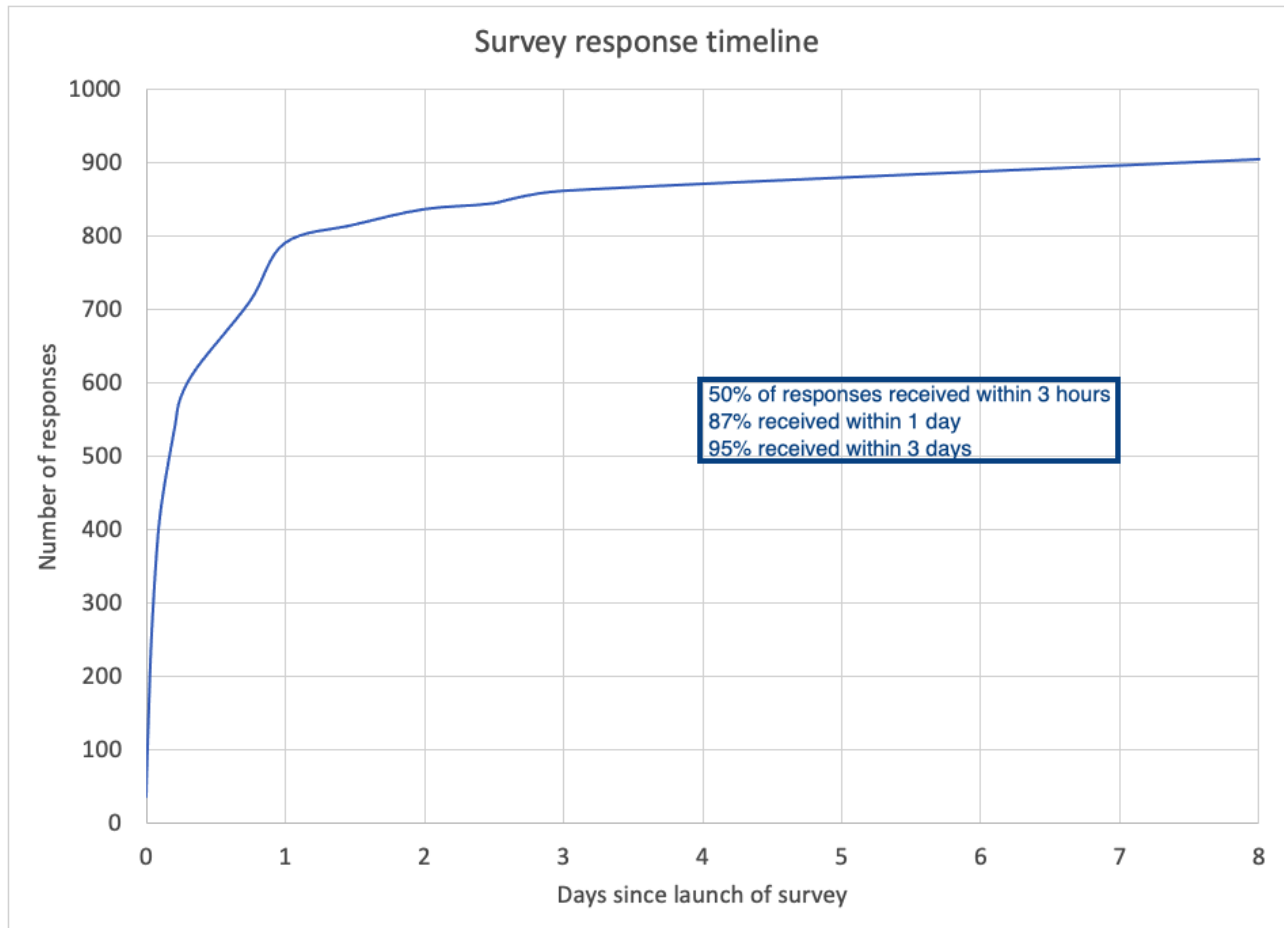
2) Effects of border restrictions



3) Prior tournament attendance



4) Timeline



5) Comments from respondents

Although commenting was optional, 156 respondents weighed in, many on covid-related issues. The list of comments is shown in Appendix 1.

Discussion

Survey results are generally self-evident, so no detailed discussion is required.

Participants responded quickly after receiving the survey. As seen under Timeline, 50% of responses were received within 3 hours of launch, 87% after 24 hours and 95% after 3 days. Future surveys could include a deadline of either 48 or 72 hours without significant loss of data.

Most respondents (65%) were unfazed by existing border restrictions. The remaining 35% opined they would be more likely to attend tournaments with no restrictions at all.

Survey respondents were, unsurprisingly, people with an interest in attending tournaments. 32% reported attending four or more tournaments annually (pre-covid) with another 41% at least two. Only 8% had never been to a tournament.

*JP Weber,
District 19 Webmaster
March 26, 2022*

Appendix 1: List of comments from participants

Note: comments are listed unfiltered in alphabetical order

- ACBL Tournament Covid Protocols are not published with the tournament information (flyers) and so it is impossible for me to make an informed decision. With lack of information I will take the cautious route and not attend any tournaments for now.
- Age-related Health issues limit me to nearby tournaments. Tri-Cities area only.
- All restrictions re COVID should be removed. That includes masks and vaccine requirements (passports) and travel between Canada and the US.
- Already vaccinated (+ booster), but any further (or resurgent) complications in border crossings would totally rule out my attendance. I'm fed up with the hoops, testing, etc.
- also there will be a total of 8 from our unit going to Leavenworth
- Am fully vaxed and would really appreciate it if all others were vaxed as well.
- Anxious to be again attending as many as possible.
- Are you / ACBL sure that "Corona virus is rapidly decreasing?" That's quite a statement!
- Because of my mobility difficulties, I stay away even for local club games.
- Canadian dollar is low so the cost to go to American tournaments is high right now.
- Cannot afford to attend tournaments, even when local.
- Ceratinly would like to go to Penticton but sponsor wanted to go to Raleigh
- Covid has NO bearing for me to play in Canada. Without knowing someone with a place to stay, hotel / Airbnb costs impact my decision.
- Covid is far from over and I am immune suppressed so I am not willing to put myself at risk at this point in time.
- Covid is still a threat. Though fully immunized, I still worry about playing in a crowded room and with most attending not wearing masks. Too bad the ACBL doesn't check booster status.
- Covid is still thriving and apparently on the rise again. I have reached a point where on line bridge is meeting all my needs; I don't want to travel and I don't want to play face to face with anyone.
- Currently Unit446 is concerned with reactions to mask mandates or lack thereof for our next sectional May 28. Tom Brown
- Drop the masks
- Eliminate the useless and unnecessary "vaccine" requirements.
- Extenuating circumstances prevent my attendance this year
- Family health reasons (age-related) prohibit my husband and I from attending more tournaments. Did in the past and would like that opportunity for others!
- glad they are back
- great to hear that Penticton tournament may happen.
- Have been waiting for pandemic to die down

- Have health issues
- Have not played f2f bridge in so long I don't want to start by playing at a regional, considering added expense. COVID concerns have no bearing on my decision to play, but I will never play if masks are required.
- Haven't been to a tournament in over 35 years.
- I am 84 and have played online for two years and now locally in the clubs
- I am a beginner who over the pandemic have lost a lot of my Bridge even playing online. I need probably a refresher or 0-20/50. Opens just depress me too much.
- I am a new player
- i am aging out of attending tournaments outside of the community where i live. since covid, we have cancelled multiple holidays on kauai. its just too much hassle for us. i dont expect this to change if all restrictions are lifted. online only at this point.
- I am more conscious of the environmental footprint of in person tournaments. I also realized the cost is not worth the benefit. Prefer Online events.
- I am moving and selling my home
- I am new to D19. I do not like the 1 and 7 o'clock game times, but prefer morning/afternoon pairings which are typical in Texas. I also will not wear a mask while playing.
- i am no longer a member of the blood-sucking organization
- I am not convinced the Covid pandemic is over. There may be another wave in the Fall. I am taking a wait and see attitude and still wearing my mask in public venues. May attend Penticton if Covid numbers continue to decline for the summer. Prefer to play online where it is safer.
- I am not good enough to play in a tournament. Hopefully I will be able to some day
- I am not interested in going to U.S. yet
- I am not vaccinated and don't intend to be.
- I am old - used to attend lots of tournaments but only attend Penticton, Victoria and maybe Vancouver (but definitely NOT Whistler) regionals now and Vancouver Island sectionals.
- I am SO EXCITED to go to Penticton. The only reason I am not going to Leavenworth is that I will be working. And I will be in Europe during the Lynwood tournament, though I have never gone to this one anyway.
- I am still wearing masks and would like to know that everyone attending and coming to my table has had all the shots available to them - not having that confidence - I am a bit leery
- I am unwilling to wear a mask at tournaments. If that were a requirement, I would not attend. I am vaccinated myself, but I do not sanction the banning of unvaccinated people by the ACBL (or any other organization). Thus, if vaccination were required to attend, I would not attend.
- I am vaccinated, but no tests! I attended the Reno Nationals
- I am very close to aging out due to health issues.
- I answered survey . I have never played in a tournament
- I attended sectionals but not regionals three times a year.

- I attended tournaments infrequently prior to the pandemic. Post pandemic, I will play more infrequently because I find I enjoy online Bridge - I will probably spend my disposable income differently now.
- I can only afford one away tournament.
- I clicked makes no difference because the option did not exist to pick that I would prefer the vaccination requirement be kept for cross-border tournaments.
- I do not accept the ACBL taking a role as vaccination police. The whole idea of "showing papers" caused me to stop playing even online bridge. I don't want to know you.
- I do not expect to play any more ACBL. I enjoyed it but my memory is not as good as it used to be. I would not be satisfied with my level of play. I continue to play and enjoy social bridge.
- I don't believe Covid19 is over yet and feel nervous using bidding boxes and cards that a room full of people are using and being in close proximity with people who are unmasked and unknown to me. I'd be much happier with a virtual event at this time.
- I enjoy going to Canada! RCM
- I fee unvaccinated people should not be allowed in.
- I have a religious exemption from ACBL, but at last check, they were going to require I wear a mask. If that has been changed, then I would be able to go. I am not willing to have restricted breathing all day or be stigmatized as unvaccinated. Maybe Canada offers covid testing as an option?
- I have attended Leavenworth Regional twice (a great regional), but never Lynnwood because August is sailing season and other outdoor activities. Have attended Seaside, Victoria (twice), Burnaby (once), Whistler (twice), Portland (Vancouver, WA) once, and Halifax once. I have never missed Penticton (but I live in Penticton).
- I have attended the Penticton regional so never is not correct, but I don't attend every year, so. Not once a year and Not never. sWhat answer do you want?
- I have only been playing bridge for 2 and a half years
- I just picked up the game last June. I have never played in person.
- I like to see vaccination for all attendees is mandatory and carefully checked on entering the building
- I only attended local tournaments.
- I refuse to travel to the US, until they change their gun laws.
- I still feel it is too early to attend large close proximity encounters. Before Covid people regularly attended tournaments with colds/flu because they wanted their points - I will wait a while.
- I think a return to live bridge is very important.
- I think it doesn't hurt to keep taking some precautions.. being more careful with food distribution coffee etc. more wipes or hand sanitizer available at each table
- I think there will be high demand for f2f tournaments - it is like there has been a drought and people will flood to these events.
- I wasn't a member before Covid. That said, I prefer playing online

- I would attend all 3 this year except for other travel plans made during these months.
- I would attend the Penticton tournament but sadly we have another family commitment. Covid is no longer a concern for me as i've had 3 shots of vaccine
- I would be interested to attend Regional at Metro Vancouver, BC and I am so excited to attend Sectional in May in New Westmister.
- I would be LESS likely to attend if all COVID-related border restrictions had been removed! I was forced to choose one of two answer that I DO NOT AGREE WITH! But not offering that response, your entire poll is flawed!
- I would be more likely to attend IF had some basic covid protocols.. hand saitzing for example? that wasnt an option with the question!
- I would be more likely to attend tournaments if safety precautions at the events were better.
- I would be much more inclined to attend the tournaments if the Covid restrictions remained!! Playing in a large room indoors with potentially unvaccinated people, unmasked, scares the hell out of me!
- I would go to penticton if I would be available
- I would like to make a regional / district tournament online on BBO.
- I would love to go to Penticton this year as well. Just won't be able to because of non-covid related factors
- I would only attend if people showed vaccine passports and were required to wear tight fitting masks.
- I would prefer it if vaccine passports were required for tournament play.
- I would really like to know if the Penticton tournament will for sure be held this year. I would like to book an Airbnb asap, but I don't want to risk losing my deposit if the Penticton tournament is unlikely to happen.
- I'll be there when you don't have to be vaccinated
- I'm happy with on-line play and don't plan travel to US for some time. Likely to play Penticton and a few local sectionals.
- I'm new to all this
- I'm not willing to risk my health with F2F bridge when I can play online instead - club games or tournaments. Larry Meyer
- I've noticed attendance at Bellingham & Reno has been way down from previous years. Are you maybe jumping the gun?
- I'm 90 years old, will not attend tournaments, as much as I miss them.
- If masks are required, I would be much less likely to attend
- It is going to be very tough to find a happy medium. Half the people want masks and social distancing and the others have burned their masks. Best of luck
- it's gotten very expensive to travel to tournaments - hotel, meals, transportation, etc. My budget is quite limited.
- Just starting face to face, it is a gradual process

- Just uncertain whether we really have control over COVID
- keep them coming so enjoyed the virtual's
- Live in Alaska, now at my 2nd NABC since Covid-19.
- Looking forward to connecting with people again. Best part of tournaments is the social aspect.
- Looking forward to going to tournaments again
- looking forward to the regional
- Loved the Whistler tournament Was very sad when it was cancelled. That tournament is my favourite
- My age and health limit my going to tournaments.
- My attendance to those events depend in large part of family circumstances (sickness in family member)
- My concern is that masks are longer mandatory. I would prefer that masks must be available at all times, and only need to be worn when requested. This would give better assurance and security for those that are immuno-compromised.
- My husband is going through chemo so I cannot risk attending any public venues this year.
- My interest in tournament bridge has almost totally declined. Will play in local sections.
- My problem is that I don't have a regular partner who wants to go to tournaments. And even though I've contacted partnership chairs, I wasn't able to play....except at nationals.
- My wife and I are fully vaccinated as all of our family members and close friends. I assume that all tournaments will require all attendees, bridge staff and venue staff to be fully vaccinated and would only consider attending if that was the case. Suggest that these requirements remain in place for the next couple of years. There need to be consequences for people who are irresponsible and refuse to be vaccinated.
- none at this time
- Not interested until it is fully back.
- Now days to far to travel Lynnwood is to far north
- Occasionally
- Only at Victoria or Sydney
- Only attend with vaccine requirements. So the question about would you be more likely ...if all covid border requirements makes zero sense ... but it finished survey I had to answer so the answer is WRONG. both answers are ridiculous
- Planning to go to Penticton tournament but if have to wear a mask all day, we will reconsider attending.
- Please consider taking a good look at current CDC covid information. It's time to remove Vax mandates and/or include medical/religious exemptions.
- Prefer BBO to face to face bridge for the convenience and for safety during the pandemic.
- Proof of vaccination needs to be mandatory at toyrnaments
- Proof of vaccinations a must, and masks at a table if requested.

- Question 3 leaves out a critical option. I would be LESS likely too attend cross border events if COVID requirements are removed.
- Rarely
- Really anticipating Penticton. Have made reservations.
- Regardless of protocols, travelling State-side doesn't feel safe as their lack of determined efforts to combat COVID leave me 'cold'.
- Remove Vaccination requirement and we'll be happy to come.
- specific health issues most likely prevent me from attending
- Spring and summer tourneys are difficult for me to attend even before covid. I'm an avid gardener and usually stay close to home from about April 15 thru Oct 15. My responses would be the same even if there were no restrictions.
- Staying safe til Covid disappears
- Thank you for organizing. Jean
- The Covid has no bearing on my response. The distance I need to travel unfortunately is the deterrent.
- The other option, would you be more likely to attend if restrictions were still enforced, would be my preference
- The vaccine mandate is criminal
- there should be an option "I would be LESS likely to attend..."
- There should be be a 3rd option in Question 4 - 'I would be less likely to attend'.
- This is not really a valid response to the survey as my wife and I will be traveling from June until October, Leavenworth is just too soon for us. We will probably attend tournaments from November on!
- Timing doesn't work, it is not Covid related for us not attending.
- Too much emphasis on MasterPoints
- travel costs now more restrictive.
- Unfortunately I am too old to travel any more
- Use to travel to regionals but for several years have only attended local ones.
- Usually attended Penticton and Whistler.
- vaccination rates in US are far lower than in BC; and some American states much worse than others. So it's the safety of vaccination rates, rather than the cost & delay of testing on returning to Canada, that is important to a more senior segment of the bridge playing population of Cdns. Also, border restrictions lighten as of Apr 1, for Cdns with vaccinations only. If newer variant of omicron variant starts to spread in the US, Canada might revert to more testing at the border again, even for the vaccinated. More adults in BC need to get their booster shot too, for better protection, and to spread less of it too.
- Vaccination requirements would make me more likely to attend (with no vaccine requirement, I would be very hesitant).

- Very glad to hear about the Canadian border lessening of restrictions! But my partner aren't ready to be in close proximity to players who aren't boosted or masked.
- We should ask about the location proximity.
- Welcome Back
- Welcoming the return of face to face play!
- Went to a sectional recently; discovered I do not like playing with a mask over my face. So, that is a factor to consider with the above tournaments, as well as gas price and session fees.
- Western Washington Regional should be rotated to Tacoma some years. It hasn't been there since the '90s.
- will attend a sectional in the fall. Work commitments, nothing to do with covid. Glad to be back to f2f.
- Will be in Italy during Leavenworth
- Will be out of town for Leavenworth , or would have gone.. Penticton..scheduling conflict Am looking for silver points
- Will not attend if masks are required
- With the World War developing I will not be going anywhere until the world is safer.
- Would go Penticton but off to Europe in june
- Would like to return to Whistler.
- Would prefer mask we