Revised ARC COVID Policy on Visitors to Apache Point Observatory

Effective November 8, 2022

This policy is meant to protect the APO staff and other visitors during the COVID-19 time and holds until removed by the ARC board. The APO staff follows vaccination restrictions as required by New Mexico State University.

All visitors to the Apache Point Observatory (APO) are required to adhere to the following revised policy by the Astrophysical Research Consortium (ARC) Board of Governors until further notice.

1) All visitors to APO must have received their second dose of a two-dose vaccine, or their single dose of a one-dose vaccine, and provide proof prior to arrival at APO*. Exemptions (medical, recent infection, etc.) are not guaranteed and must be approved by the Director of Operations at APO prior to arrival. Those with approved exemptions must show proof of a negative COVID test within 3 days prior to arrival and will be subject to on-site COVID tests.

2) Non-essential visitors (e.g., friends, family, peers) must adhere to the above policies and must submit requests for overnight stays (which are not guaranteed) to the Director of Operations.

3) Masks are no longer required in shared spaces at APO, but they are welcomed and we respect people's choices.

Individuals that do not adhere to the above policy will not be allowed on site. Those testing positive at APO as well as those in unmasked close contact with the former will be self-isolated.

* In this context, people are considered to be fully vaccinated 2 weeks after their COVID shot(s), two doses of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines or one dose of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine, booster, or equivalents.