

A Meeting of Minds in a brave new world

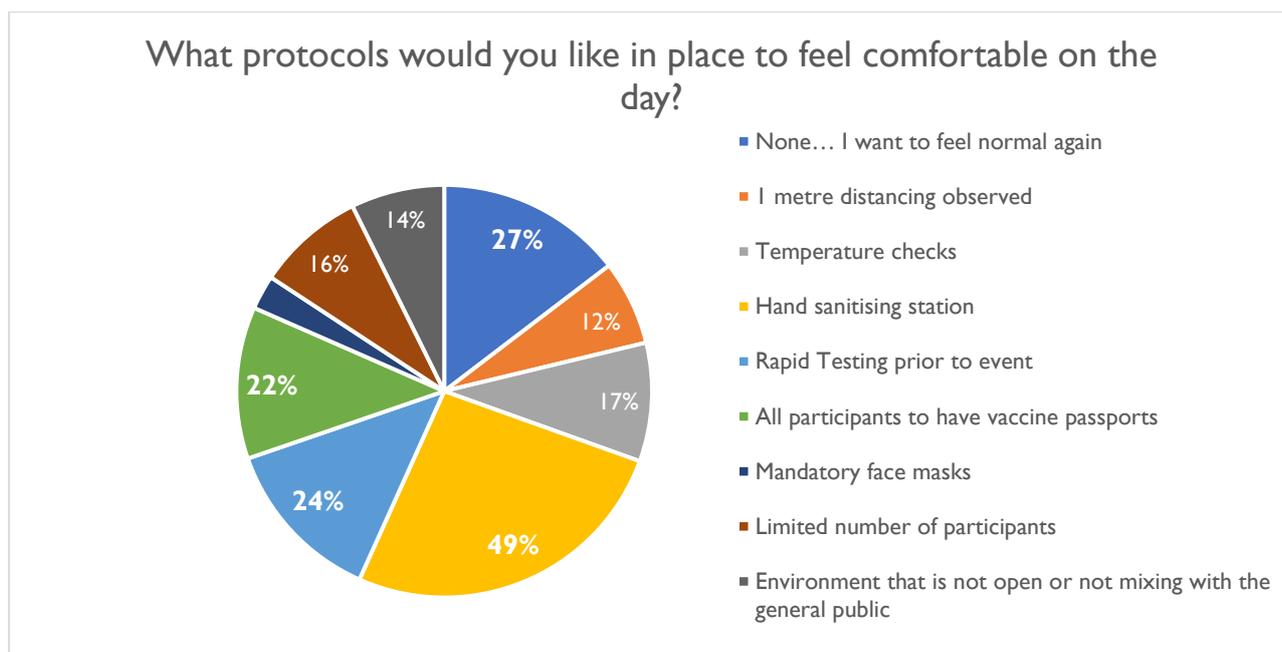
How will hybrid work & what precautions are we taking to ensure you will be safe?

It is crazy to think that it will have been two years since we all last rubbed shoulders together at A Meeting of Minds. Whilst we managed to pivot on Zoom during the various lockdowns, virtual-fatigue certainly began to set in after the summer, and there continues to be a huge appetite to get back together in-person to strategise and network.

Whilst events have started opening up again, and some sort of normality has returned, there are a lot of inconsistencies around how different organisers are approaching this brave new world. So, after extensive research, we have put together this document to answer some of the questions you may have. Ultimately, we want to reassure you that your safety is our number one priority, and that you will still get that wow-factor at the event you have grown so accustomed to. Here's to 'seeing you' at A Meeting of Minds!

How does everyone else feel about getting back together again?

- **93%** said they plan to participate in-person
- Whilst the majority of those coming in-person (**61%**) have said that they have no worries about getting together again, the biggest concerns are commuting to the event, being asked to isolate after the event and the general uncertainty of the situation.
- When asked what protocols they would want us to have in place to feel secure on the day (see below), the top four were having plenty of hand sanitising stations, the opportunity to simply feel normal again, rapid testing before the event and producing vaccine passports.



What are we doing about it?

Getting into the event – can I drive to the event if I want to avoid public transport?

Absolutely, there is a hotel car park you are able to use.

Do I need a vaccine passport to get into the event?

Yes please - however, don't panic if you do not have proof of a double jab on the NHS app. On arrival, you will be asked to show your double vaccination, a negative lateral flow test (within 48 Hours) or natural immunity. If can't provide any of these we will ask you to take a lateral flow test when you register. Please note there are also temperature checks on arrival at The Berkeley Hotel.

Do I need to wear a mask?

No, there is no need to wear a mask in the event. You are of course more than welcome to wear one if it makes you feel more comfortable (particularly when moving around the building), but ultimately we want everyone to feel normal again so you are not required to wear a face covering when attending roundtables or networking.

How should we greet each other?

We know how tricky it can be to know how to greet each other at the moment, so we will operate a traffic light system on your badges. When you arrive you will be asked how comfortable you feel about greeting your colleagues and depending on your answer (see below) your badge will be colour coded:

- I would rather we kept our distance to 1m.
- I am happy to fist pump or knock elbows.
- I am relaxed more than happy to shake hands or hug.

How will the format of the day work?

Once you are inside A Meeting of Minds we want you to feel as relaxed as possible and there will be plenty of hand sanitation stations around the hotel. As before, a Meeting of Minds will include the following building blocks:

1. **Roundtable sessions** – these sessions will be facilitated and the tables will be set up as a u-shape to enable a virtual audience to dial into the session on a screen at the front of the room.
2. **Networking** – whilst we will be scheduling some prescheduled one-to-one meetings, there will also be a seating plan for all the mealtimes and we are looking to incorporate a short, spread-out speed networking session. Never underestimate the power of those informal meetings
3. **Keynote presentations** – we are working on the assumption that all our speakers will be there in-person and we will stream the keynotes live. Recordings of the keynotes will only be made available to participants on the app after the event.

Should I bring business cards?

Our suggestion would be not to bring business cards – both from a green perspective and to reduce cross-contamination. All your contact details will be on the app. However, if you are feeling really groovy, you may want to look at getting yourself one of these – [click here](#).

What happens if I have to isolate before the event and can no longer participate in-person?

Fear not, as the event is hybrid, you can still join all the keynotes and roundtable sessions as a virtual participant.

If I take part virtually, will I still be able to network with other participants?

Assuming there are enough virtual participants, there will be an online networking session in the afternoon between 1700-1800. Otherwise, we are more than happy to introduce you to anyone you wish to connect with after the event.

What happens if there is another lockdown?

We are ready to pivot. In this situation we will run the Meeting of Minds as a virtual event... but we are keeping the faith that this will not be case!

THE AFTERMATH - Will I have to isolate if I am told someone had COVID at the event?

Looking at the current Government advice, assuming you meet any of the criteria below you **will not have to isolate** afterwards. If someone does catch COVID at the event, we will inform all participants afterwards and you may be asked to take a PCR test to be on the safe side.

- You're fully vaccinated – this means 14 days have passed since your final dose of a COVID-19 vaccine given by the NHS
- You're taking part or have taken part in a COVID-19 vaccine trial
- You're not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons

NB: If you do not meet any of the criteria above and you have been in close contact with someone who has COVID-19, you may have to self-isolate for 10 full days.

If you have any more questions please do contact Amelia Hawkins, Event Coordinator at ameliahawkins@owenjamesgroup.com / 07554 866354 and we look forward to welcoming you at A Meeting of Minds