

UTBREAK *Adjusting to the threat*

Yes! We are still offering our traditional BEST Robotics hub competition where restrictions allow it. **Outbreak Hub** will be a modified version of the classic program and events with format changes to address the safety of all participants and volunteers. This is no normal season, as we all know. In locations where it is possible, this multi-team competition event will continue while following all local, state, and national guidelines concerning health safety. That means personal protective equipment, social distancing, frequent sanitizing, moving spectators out, limiting the number of participants and or new formats to stagger teams' attendance when needed. Outbreak Hub is a program that continues to offer classic BEST Robotics education and excitement to the students within the reality constraints of our situation due to COVID19.



What is Outbreak Hub?

Outbreak Hub is your typical BEST Robotics competition with all the activities that you are familiar with. Robotics kits are provided to teams, who then design and build their robot to solve the game “problem”. A final competition event (game day) is held at a central venue to judge each team’s robot performance on the game field. All appropriate medical safety precautions will be implemented including limiting team sizes and no audience. Teams will still organize themselves, design and construct their robot just as they normally would. All activities except robot performance on the game field will be judged online. The 2020 game has changed from "Incision Decision" to "Outbreak", a new game that allows us to better scale across all competition delivery formats. It is a medical theme just as Incision Decision was.

What is changing from the normal BEST competition?

Designing/Building the Robot

Robotics kits are provided by your local hub on or near your hub’s kickoff date. The hub will provide all details about how Kickoff will be performed and how and where kits will be distributed to participating teams if there are any changes to the norm. Your team will design and construct a robot from the provided kit materials to solve the game "problem". We are also introducing a NEW Critical Design Review this year where your team will present details of their robot design to the judges.

Robots on the Game Field

Your team will compete head-to-head against other teams at a competition event site in a similar fashion to past competitions you have attended. However, the format and scheduling of your matches may be modified to accommodate medical safety precautions. Your hub will detail what is changing in this area, when to show up for your matches and how they will be run. All appropriate safety measures such as personal protective equipment, social distancing and sanitizing will be implemented at the competition site.

Familiar BEST Activities

The same BEST Robotics activities you are familiar with will continue in our Outbreak Hub competition.

Engineering Notebook - no change to this traditional deliverable documenting your engineering process, research and game strategy.

Marketing Presentation - same criteria but it will be hosted as an online meeting with judges.

Virtual Team Exhibit - your team exhibit has gone virtual! Learn how to turn your exhibit into an online showcase of your publicity and community relations activities. We even have a way for your team to video chat with the public at the times you choose.

Student Interviews - we will still do student interviews but they will be done through an online meeting with judges.

New Online Challenges

There will be several NEW online challenges offered that will test your students' skills and knowledge. Each is an exciting new opportunity to expand your students' education. Check with your local hub on which of these challenges they will be offering.

BESTMania Skills Quiz - So you think your students are pretty smart, eh? Let them try the weekly BESTMania Skills Quiz, collect points for their team and learn a few new things along the way. Lots of twists and turns and ways to boost their score each week. They can also earn points all week long through the MathZing Prep challenges; SAT and Grade8 math prep for points! Join the games at <https://www.mathzing.com/bestmania.php>.

Outbreak Minecraft Challenge - Yep, you guessed it, a Minecraft game modeled after our 2020 game, Outbreak! Get online, compete as a team, beat the clock to score as many points as you can. Solve puzzles and learn more about the game theme and real-world implications as you try to achieve milestones and create new materials. Anyone can play, but your game time is limited so play wisely!

Robot Modeling Challenge - Take your team's robot design to the next level. Model it in a 3D environment where you can simulate its movements. Maybe your students are skilled enough to demonstrate it in action on the Outbreak virtual game field! Import from CAD tools or model it from scratch in Mathworks Simscape Multibody environment. Take your time, do as much as you can, earn points for each accomplishment.

Engineering Drawings Challenge - Many teams already use Computer Aided Design (CAD) in the development of their robot. Let them take it one step further and create masterful drawings that will win this award! Engineering drawings are important throughout industry. Learning how to produce proper drawings will be an incredible boost to their resume.

Website Design Challenge - Your students can learn how to design a website and earn points for the skills they demonstrate. They can use this platform to learn how to program in a variety of languages including HTML, CSS, Java, Python, and others. Help them tap into their artistic side to create a visually appealing and functional website. Website design is a great skill to have in their portfolio. It's all about the design!

Video Design Challenge - Video is a common tool we use everyday it seems. All of our mobile devices have video cameras. But there is an art (and great skill) in creating a good video. Students can learn about the basics of photography and videography as they develop a custom video on one of our select topic areas. They could be crowned Master of Video Design!

What do I do now?

Register your team to participate at the [BEST National Registry](https://www.bestrobotics.org).

BEST Robotics is working tirelessly to provide our students with the best opportunities and education possible during these difficult times. We encourage everyone to not let this difficult time change that. Adapt and overcome...be a part of the solution!



<http://www.bestrobotics.org>

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