



MeetSAFE®

Health and Wellness Policy



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Introduction

Our vision is to develop a Health Protection/Safety policy which will safeguard the health and safety of conference attendees. This policy is based on CDC guidance and proven “best practices” drawn from what has been learned during the current pandemic. Our strategy, presented here, is robust and comprehensive. It is designed to create multiple layers of protection against COVID-19 infection and transmission and assure the safety of conference attendees.

Our vision has a core principle recognizing vaccination as the key component in assuring attendees’ wellness. We will be asking about the vaccination status of all attendees at registration. We will be collecting the vaccination cards of those who have been vaccinated prior to the start of the conference. We ask that those who have chosen not to vaccinate present a negative COVID-19 test taken within 72 hours prior to registration opening and wear a mask to protect themselves and others during the conference.

The guidance presented here covers all aspects of the conference including, but not limited to, general sessions, breakout sessions, meals, hospitality areas, networking opportunities and all other aspects of conference participation. It is not intended to “crimp your style” as an attendee. The broad goal of this policy is to keep you healthy while you attend and prevent any transmission of COVID-19. Please cooperate with the suggestions presented here to assure that the conference is rewarding, informative, and beneficial for all those who attend.

Recommendations

- Pre-convention vaccination is strongly encouraged for all attendees. The current upswing in infections involving the highly contagious delta variant of COVID-19 makes this more critical now than in the past six months. Those who have been vaccinated must upload their vaccination card prior to the start of the conference. Attendees who have chosen not to vaccinate must present a negative COVID-19 test result taken within 72 hours prior to registration as a condition of attending and participating in the conference.
- All attendees must fill out the Pre-Conference Health and Wellness questionnaire.
- The Hilton Downtown Cleveland should respond to the pre-conference Venue Health and Safety Assessment in a timely fashion.
- All CDC, State of Ohio, and City of Cleveland COVID-19 regulations and protocols should be strictly adhered to.
- Appropriate signage regarding hand sanitizing, social distancing, and traffic flow should be in place when attendees arrive. Hand sanitizing stations should be strategically located throughout the conference areas.
- Touch points throughout the conference space should be frequently sanitized. This includes the registration area, all bathrooms, as well as meeting room surfaces. Attendees should be encouraged to avoid any unnecessary touching of their surroundings.
- When attendees leave the hotel, they should continue to practice good preventive hygiene and sanitize their hands immediately upon returning to the hotel.
- The Hilton Downtown Cleveland must have a protocol in place to deal with any attendees who become ill during the conference.

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Pre-Conference Risk Assessment

The following steps should be taken prior to the conference:

1. All attendees will complete the Health Questionnaire prior to coming to the conference to assure the wellness of all attendees. Those who are not vaccinated should be especially careful in filling out the form.
2. The Venue Health and Safety form will be completed by the Venue Manager in charge of this conference at the Hilton Downtown Cleveland.
3. Any high- risk situations identified by the Venue Health and Safety form should be addressed with the venue management.
4. The outside agency which will be handling the collection of vaccination cards will inform Master Brewers Association as to how they will handle the collection process and how they will inform Tressa Patrias, Director of Meetings of those who are vaccinated.

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Please take the following requirements into consideration as you plan for your participation in the Master Brewers Association Conference.

1. Based on the June 10, 2021, CDC updates the following requirements apply. If you are fully vaccinated, you are not required to wear a mask at any point during the conference. If you are not vaccinated, masks will be required at all general sessions, break-out sessions, exhibit hall viewing, and hospitality room(s). Those who choose not to vaccinate will be required to present a negative COVID-19 test taken within 72 hours prior to registration. Mask wearing will be strictly enforced and we appreciate your cooperation.
2. Be mindful of others personal space and show respect for those who wish to social distance.
3. Registration can be a frustrating experience especially during the current epidemic. Please allow plenty of time to get through the lines that inevitably develop at a conference of this size. Our on-site staff will assist in keeping appropriate physical distancing. Please exhibit patience and help all attendees stay healthy.
4. Safe room capacities will be monitored and strictly enforced. If a meeting room has reached its capacity, we ask that you choose another session to attend. You will be able to listen to all sessions on demand starting November 3, 2021.
5. Hand sanitizing stations will be available throughout the venue. Please make sure to use of them frequently.
6. Please watch for floor markings indicating one- way traffic flow in high traffic areas.
7. The HVAC system in the Downtown Hilton meets or exceeds CDC mandated levels. The air filters are of the MERV 8 specification and will assure a fresh and wholesome air quality environment.

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When You Arrive

1. Disposable masks will be available for all those unvaccinated individuals who require a mask as well as vaccinated attendees who may be more comfortable wearing a mask.
2. Those who have been vaccinated and have uploaded a copy of their vaccination card through SafeEXPO will be directed to a designated check in area for badge pick up.
3. Those who are vaccinated but did not upload their vaccination card prior to arriving will need to present their vaccination card to registration staff for verification.
4. Those who have chosen not to vaccinate must present a negative COVID-19 test document at registration. The test date must be within 72 hours prior to registration.
5. Wash or sanitize your hands frequently.
6. Avoid handshakes wherever practical.
7. When a cough or a sneeze is unavoidable, please cover the cough or sneeze with your sleeve or elbow and not your hand.
8. Be mindful of others personal space and show respect to those who wish to social distance.

During the Conference

1. If you become ill during the conference, please stay in your room. Medical personnel are available to assist you if necessary.
2. The conference floor plan allows for appropriate spacing using signs and floor graphics. Please observe these signs to help us help you stay healthy.
3. There will be more spacing in all meeting rooms with limits on the number of people that can be in a room at any given time. Please do not move tables or chairs in any of the rooms.
4. We will be cleaning and sanitizing high touch points throughout the conference.
5. Exhibitors will have access to enhanced cleaning and disinfection services for their booth or display area.
6. Nightly disinfecting will take place to sanitize all seating, restrooms and other frequently touched surfaces.
7. During the conference, report any illness or COVID related concerns to Tressa Patrias, Director of Meetings for Master Brewers. tpatrias@scisoc.org

Food and Beverage

1. Food will be made available in single serving pre-packaged (Box Lunch) formats as much as is possible or practical.
2. Dining space will be increased to facilitate distancing. Tables will be frequently sanitized.
3. Dedicated staff will carefully monitor flow and crowd control of dining areas, beer stations, and the hospitality room.
4. Exhibitor samples of malt, grain products, hop samples are considered food items. It is strongly recommended that these samples be distributed for sampling in single serve, compostable cups, or alternative single serve packaging. Any unused samples should be properly discarded.
5. Tables in eating areas are arranged by hotel staff to assure proper distancing. Please do not move tables together.
6. We ask that you refrain from sharing any food or beverages throughout the duration of the conference.

After the Conference

1. If you get COVID-19 within 14 days after the conference, please contact Tressa Patrias, Director of Meetings for Master Brewers as soon as possible. tpatrias@scisoc.org



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Pre-travel Health Questionnaire

Attendance at and participation in the Master Brewers Association's 2021 conference is subject to compliance with the policies and requirements of the CDC, the State of Ohio and the City of Cleveland as well as the policies of the Cleveland Downtown Hilton.

During the COVID-19 epidemic, the Master Brewers Association is making the necessary adjustments and prioritizing the health and well-being of all attendees. The requirements of the CDC and other governmental agencies remain fluid as the challenge of variant strains of the COVID-19 virus appear. You will be informed of any relevant changes to CDC policies beyond the June 10, 2021 updates prior to the conference.

In order to assure our attendees' health and wellness, we are asking all attendees to complete this questionnaire prior to traveling to Cleveland. Please take a few minutes to complete this questionnaire. Completed questionnaires will be collected at registration for our compliance records.

- 1) Do you currently have a fever? ☐ Yes ☐ No
- 2) Do you currently have a sore throat? ☐ Yes ☐ No
- 3) Do you currently have a dry cough? ☐ Yes ☐ No
- 4) Do you have a runny nose? ☐ Yes ☐ No
- 5) Have you experienced shortness of breath or trouble breathing? ☐ Yes ☐ No
- 6) Have you recently been exposed to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19?
☐ Yes ☐ No
- 7) Have you recently had a loss or reduction of your senses of taste or smell? ☐ Yes ☐ No
- 8) Have you been diagnosed with COVID-19? ☐ Yes ☐ No
- 9) If #8 is yes, when were you diagnosed? _____ (Date)

If you responded "yes" to any of the questions, we strongly advise you to get a COVID-19 test prior to traveling to Cleveland. In the summer, many people experience allergies to tree or flower pollen or other allergens which can cause symptoms similar to those of COVID-19. It is possible that if you have any of the above-mentioned symptoms, you are experiencing allergies. We strongly recommend that you find out for certain about the cause of the symptoms you are experiencing by taking a COVID-19 test.



UNITED WE BREW™

Expected Behavior Policy

We are dedicated to providing a harassment-free meeting experience for everyone, regardless of gender, sexual orientation, disability, physical appearance, body size, race, or religion. We do not tolerate harassment of participants in any form. We ask all attendees, exhibitors, speakers, sponsors, volunteers, guests and other participants be considerate and respectful to all members and refrain from demeaning, discriminatory, or harassing behavior and speech. Please note, if you register a guest for the conference, you may be held responsible for the actions of the guest. Violations of this policy should be reported to meeting staff.

Master Brewers reserves the right to remove any individual from attendance or other participation in any Master Brewers sponsored event without prior warning or refund, and to take additional action as determined necessary, up to and including expulsion from participation in Master Brewers Association. Any course of action recommended by Master Brewers is final.