

Health & Safety Measures for Faculty

It will be exciting to be back together in-person for Connect 2023 and given the presence of COVID and other infectious diseases at this time of year, we know that there is anxiety and uncertainty being triggered for many faculty and participants. We have put together some steps that you can take to facilitate a safe and healthy environment during your program. The following Health & Safety Measures can serve as a guide. They are intended to be general guidelines and not exhaustive. Every faculty member is expected to use effective group facilitation skills as they discuss the measures to be taken with their participants. It will be important for each faculty member and all participants to be respectful of each individual participant's personal preferences toward safety and health.

General Guiding Principles for Faculty:

1. At the beginning of your introduction, tell participants that you will take a few minutes to discuss the health and safety measures to be utilized during your presentation and inquire about participants' feelings about being in-person.
2. There are a couple of options for how to process participants feelings about being in-person and in a room for a prolonged period. It is important to acknowledge the possible anxiety and concerns likely to be present in the room and that people may have varying degrees of concern. There is no right or wrong number of measures to take and it is important to respect each person's need to establish their own degree of safety.
3. Let the participants know how you and your other presenters are feeling and when you were last tested for COVID or the flu. Let the participants know whether you will be wearing a mask.
4. Mention that AGPA is not mandating mask-wearing, but masks will be available in the Registration and AGPA Office area in the Empire Ballroom. There will also be hand sanitizer stations throughout the hotel and small bottles of sanitizer available in the Registration Area. The hotel has also upgraded its air purification and ventilation system. You can also refer them to the AGPA app where they will find the "COVID Health and Safety Measures."
5. Ask participants to report in on how they are feeling and if they will be wearing a mask. Ask that if anyone is not feeling well, to dismiss themselves and consider getting tested.
6. Testing sites are located within walking distance of the hotel in drug stores and clinics (the Hospitality Guide has sites listed on pages 16 & 17). They may need to make an appointment and, if there is a wait, to stay in their room until the appointment time.

7. Let them know that they should adjust their seating according to their need for social distance.
8. Remind participants that it is important to respect each person's need for safety regarding wearing a mask and social distancing. In addition to masks, also available in the Registration Area are dots that attendees can place on their badges indicating their comfortability with physical contact.
 - Red: Not comfortable (no contact)
 - Yellow: Somewhat comfortable (handshakes and/or fist bumps)
 - Green: Fully comfortable (usual contact)
9. If someone is coughing, sneezing, or obviously congested, ask them how they are feeling and if they have a fever. If they have a fever, they should be asked to leave. If they do not have a fever, then ask them to mask if they are not masked at the time.
10. Let participants know that the if they contract COVID, that they can submit a request for a refund with official proof of testing positive during Connect. There will be a \$50 administration fee. They should send their request to info@agpa.org. Requests will be reviewed by the Executive Committee of AGPA.

Everyone can access the COVID policy in the AGPA Connect App as well as by going to agpa.org and go to the link to the left-hand side for "Meetings" where they will find a menu for AGPA Connect 2023. If they click on it, there is a link for the program, and they can click on it and find the COVID link for Safety and Health Measures there.

We wish you well in your program and managing your participants concerns related to safety and health.

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