

NASSH COVID-19 Policies

For the 2022 NASSH Conference, all attendees are expected to follow [CDC guidelines](#) to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 and keep everyone safe. These guidelines align with the policies and executive orders of the conference hotel, State of Illinois, and City of Chicago, respectively. Following the recent [repeal](#) of [executive order](#) (No. 2021-2) face coverings in Chicago's public spaces are not longer required as of this date. However, NASSH as an organization will require that all registrants and those attending meals as guests provide proof of vaccination (defined as 2 shots + a booster or equivalent) as described below.

The 2022 NASSH conference offers a virtual presentation option for individuals who are uncomfortable meeting in person and individuals with [Higher risk of severe illness](#).

For the 2022 NASSH conference, [Kim Scott](#) will be designated as the COVID-19 point of contact. All attendees will be asked to notify this individual if they:

- have [symptoms](#) of COVID-19;
- have tested positive for COVID-19; and/or
- were exposed to someone with COVID-19 within the previous 14 days from May 13, 2022.

NASSH recognizes that attempting to hold an in-person conference during a global pandemic is challenging for all. The situation is fluid and rapidly changing both on the global and on the individual scale. If on the global scale, the COVID-19 situation deteriorates dramatically with travel and movement restrictions, NASSH will make any adjustments that it can up to and including going completely virtual or cancelling.

On the individual level, NASSH recommends taking precautions to protect one's financial investment in an in-person conference. For example, attendees should consider purchasing travel insurance through a third party. Further, NASSH registration includes registration fee insurance. Purchase of this registration fee insurance allows the member a full refund of their registration until May 26, 2022 for any covered reason.

Registrants who are not presenting can cancel their in-person registration and be refunded their

If you want or need to cancel your registration and withdraw from the program, please notify the COVID-19 contact, Kim Scott, and Program Committee Chair, Sarah Fields.

Contact Tracing and Communication

If an attendee develops symptoms, tests positive, or was exposed to COVID-19 while at the conference, the COVID-19 contact (Kim Scott) will notify attendees that may have been exposed.

Testing Sites

Low or no-cost testing is currently available at local health centers and select pharmacies. Several CVS and Walgreens that currently offer PCR/NAAT and Rapid Results Tests are within close proximity of the conference hotel (Double-Tree by Hilton, Magnificent Mile, 300 E. Ohio Street, Chicago, IL, 60611). Appointments can be booked at [CVS Health](#) or [Walgreens](#). For additional local testing information, go to the [Illinois Department of Public Health website](#).

Key Facts

- Attendees must show photo or paper verification that they are fully vaccinated (defined as 2 shots + a booster or equivalent) against COVID-19 upon registration.
- At this writing, masks are not required for all individuals in all indoor public areas in Chicago and the state of Illinois. If required by state, local, hotel policy, or NASSH leadership when the conference occurs, NASSH will require all individuals, regardless of vaccination status, to wear masks in all conference spaces except when actively eating and drinking. This decision will be made close to the conference date.
- Conference attendees will have following options to assign to their name badges to indicate their comfort-level:
 - **Red** - Social Distancing
 - **Yellow** - Minimal - Elbows only
 - **Green** - High Fives and Handshakes
- We will work with the conference hotel and local public health officials to comply with all social distancing guidelines in all conference and registration areas.
- Hand sanitizer stations will be available throughout all conference spaces, including at the registration desk and in the book display room.
- The hotel will leave additional space between chairs in conference meeting rooms to allow for physical distancing.
- The Doubletree by Hilton Chicago- Magnificent Mile have enhanced cleaning, sanitation, and social distancing protocols in place, and have hand sanitizer stations at the front desks, elevators, and in the meeting spaces. The hotel requires all employees, regardless of vaccination status, to wear masks in public areas, including meeting spaces. Hotel staff are either fully vaccinated or have recently tested negative for COVID-19, consistent with standards established by the CDC. See Hilton's [Clean Stay page](#) for details.