

AMCHP 2022 Conference Q&A

Are we allowing people with vaccination exemptions to attend the conference?

The health and safety of AMCHP members, attendees, exhibitors, sponsors, and staff, as well as venue staff and the surrounding community, is of the utmost importance. AMCHP is committed to reducing the risk associated with attending an in-person event. Therefore, all on-site attendees are required to be fully vaccinated to attend in person. Everyone who cannot provide attestation of full vaccination is invited to enjoy the conference via our virtual conference option. We will have a robust offering of sessions and posters available to virtual participants, and we will record all plenary sessions for virtual attendees.

When do attendees need to present their vaccination cards?

AMCHP planned to utilize a vendor to collect vaccination attestation virtually prior to on-site attendance. However, the Mayor of the District of Columbia issued a vaccination mandate (Mayor's Order 2021-148, 12/22/2021) which states that, beginning on January 15, 2022, specified facilities, which include hotels and conference centers, shall not permit a guest, visitor, or customer over 12 to enter their indoor premises without displaying proof of vaccination against COVID-19. This means that in addition to providing attestation digitally, participants should bring their vaccination cards or other proof of vaccination with them to the conference. Attendees will be required to show proof of vaccination to access the common areas of the hotel, banquet halls, conference center meeting facilities, auditoriums, and shared work facilities. Conference goers should note that other specified facilities include restaurants, bars, nightclubs, indoor entertainment establishments, indoor exercise facilities, and recreational establishments in Washington, DC. Regulations governing surrounding communities in Maryland and Virginia vary. Conference attendees should be prepared to show identification that matches the name on their vaccination card.

What do I do if my ability to participate in-person changes (due to not feeling well prior to travel, new variant, state mandate, or other) close to the conference?

AMCHP urges all attendees to be mindful of their health and the health of others. If, prior to or during the conference, a participant feels unwell, is informed that they have been exposed to Covid-19 and asked to quarantine, or tests positive for the Covid-19 virus, AMCHP urges the individual to not travel and to not attend in-person events. Please reach out to amchpreg@conferencemanagers.com regarding registration transfers or refunds.

Refunds are limited to conference fees paid. Cancellation and substitution requests must be submitted in writing to amchpreg@conferencemanagers.com. Substitution requests must also include the original attendee's name and registration ID and the substitute attendee's name, job title, organization, mailing address, phone and e-mail. No-shows are non-refundable. Please refer to these important dates, and

keep in mind that as we have done in the past, AMCHP will evaluate all requests for cancellation due to exposure to COVID-19 or illness on a case-by-case basis:

- **Update - January 28: Early Bird Registration Deadline and Last day to change your registration type without penalty.**
- **February 10:** Last Day to cancel your registration in full and receive a full refund minus \$75 administrative fee.
- **February 11 – February 18:** Cancellations receive a 50% refund minus \$75 administrative fee.
- **February 18:** Last days to receive a refund of any kind.
- **February 24:** Last day to submit a substitution request in advance**

**Substitutions may also be completed at onsite registration accompanied by written permission from the original attendee.

Are we thinking of requiring boosters for conference?

AMCHP is keeping up with the latest guidance from CDC regarding boosters. Currently, CDC guidance is that everyone is considered fully vaccinated two weeks after their second dose in a two-shot series, such as the Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna vaccines, or two weeks after a single-dose vaccine, such as the J&J/Janssen vaccine. Vaccination records will be assessed for compliance with vaccines approved by the World Health Organization's Emergency Use List. At this time additional doses or boosters are not required, but they are encouraged. If national standards change, AMCHP will update the website and notify registered attendees.

Will we be required to wear masks?

Mask wearing will be required within the meeting space, except when eating or drinking, and may be required in all common areas depending on local and national guidance at the time of the conference. Conference participants who do not comply with mask guidelines may be asked to leave the conference space. All conference staff will be wearing masks throughout the conference.

How do we support social distancing?

AMCHP requests that in-person attendees attempt to continue to social distance while at the conference. To help with this, room sets will facilitate distancing whenever feasible. If tables are provided in a room, they will be set in classroom style (oblong tables, hard surface, facing forward) and will be spaced out. In the plenary / general session room, chairs will be set theater style with space in between to prevent people from sitting right next to each other. We also anticipate that only about half of our usual participants will be able to attend in person, so there should be less crowding than in a typical conference.

At registration you will be able to select a color-coded lanyard that represents how you would like to interact with other participants. Green – open to hugs / handshakes / physical contact; Yellow – ask me first; Red – not interested in physical contact; Black – prefer not to declare / might change my mind.

What other measures are being taken to make the in-person conference safer?

There are hand sanitizer stations throughout the conference space and hotel for attendees to use during the conference. We have also lengthened the breaks between workshop sessions to allow hotel staff to clean and sanitize breakout rooms.

How are we providing food at the conference?

There will be food provided at the AMCHP conference. Food will be provided as buffeteria-style, where servers put food on your plate, which minimizes the touching of serving utensils, or grab-and-go boxes that are pre-packaged. Grab-and-go will be the style for lunch provided on Sunday and Monday. Since eating requires one to remove their mask, participants may choose to take their food to eat somewhere else, or if you feel comfortable eating in shared spaces, you are welcome to stay in the room.

What sessions are available for virtual participants?

We will have events scheduled for virtual participation beginning on Sunday, March 6, 2022, which is the official kickoff to our conference. Note: sessions scheduled for Saturday, March 5, 2022 are in-person only. To ensure a robust offering to virtual participants, most virtual content will be recorded and archived on the conference website. Below is a rundown of what to expect to be available for virtual participants.

Workshop sessions

- During most workshop session breakouts, two of the in-person sessions will be recorded and made available to our virtual audience. This means you will be able to see the slides and hear the presenters; the recordings will be available for asynchronous (anytime) viewing.
- During most workshop session breakouts, there will be at least one all-virtual session taking place live (Eastern Time Zone), where both the presenters AND the participants will be engaging virtually through Zoom. Anyone who is an in-person participant who wants to attend a virtual session may do so by going back to their hotel room and logging on through their computer.
- We are requesting that all in-person presenters who are not going to be recorded onsite record themselves practicing their presentation and upload the video to the conference site; this will allow all participants to be able to access their presentation during or after the conference.

Roundtable sessions

- There will be a virtual roundtable session on Monday 3/7 at 3:30pm ET hosted on the Zoom platform. Roundtables are interactive, with presenters sharing their content, posing questions to the audience, and facilitating a dialogue around their content with audience participation.

Posters

- AMCHP has accepted more than 30 virtual posters, which will be available in our virtual poster gallery, along with brief recorded audio of the presenter walking through the poster's content.
- In addition, the more than 50 posters accepted for in-person presentation can also be uploaded in digital format to the virtual poster gallery for virtual and in-person attendees to view during and after the conference.

Plenary sessions

- All three plenary / general sessions will be recorded and made available on the conference platform for asynchronous (anytime) viewing.