

2022 CityMatCH Conference Pandemic Protocols

Last Updated on: September 06, 2022

Attending any in-person event during an ongoing pandemic assumes a level of inherent risk. We encourage all attendees to mitigate that risk as much as possible, while also having realistic expectations that infections may occur anyway. However, in order to help reduce risk as much as possible, CityMatCH is instituting the following required and suggested Covid-19 and Monkeypox protocols for the 2022 CityMatCH Conference:

Masks

- Masks are **REQUIRED** for conference attendees at all indoor conference sessions and events, except for meals. We ask that everyone refrain from taking masks off in meeting spaces (unless eating or drinking), even to take pictures. Please bring enough masks to get you through your travels and time in Chicago.
- KN94, KN95, and N95 masks are recommended; surgical masks are acceptable. Please no cloth masks. Masks must be worn appropriately, covering the nose and mouth.
- If you need a replacement mask, a limited number of surgical masks will be available at the registration desk.
- For mainstage events, speakers may remove their masks while presenting. For breakout sessions, speakers must remain masked as they cannot be at least six feet apart from attendees. Microphones will be available in these rooms.

Proof of Vaccination/Negative PCR Test

- All conference attendees will be required to show either: 1) that they are up to date on their Covid-19 vaccinations (see next bullet for details), or 2) proof of a negative PCR test that was taken within 72 hours of arriving at the conference.
- Attendees will be considered "up to date" on their Covid-19 vaccination if they have received their primary doses of Pfizer, Moderna, J&J, or Novavax as well as boosters, if eligible.
- CityMatCH staff will be verifying vaccination status or negative PCR tests upon check-in to the conference. Please bring your Covid-19 vaccination card or proof of a negative PCR test to the registration desk.

Additional Attendee Agreements:

- Attendees agree that if they do not feel well or suspect that they have been exposed to Covid-19 or any other illnesses, they will stay in their hotel rooms to limit exposure to other attendees. They will also be masked in any public areas.

- Attendees agree to use frequent and proper handwashing and hand sanitizing protocols.
 - Proper handwashing includes lathering hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.

Tests

- Anyone not up to date on their Covid-19 vaccine (complete primary dose series and any eligible booster doses) should be prepared to provide proof of a negative PCR test dated within 72 hours of arriving to the conference.
- We ask that all attendees bring their own rapid tests and self-monitor for Covid-19 symptoms daily.
 - Information on how to get reimbursed for rapid tests through insurance: [Test Reimbursement](#)
- There are several testing locations close to the Conference hotel:
 - Nearest Pharmacy: CVS, 520 S State St, Chicago, IL 60605
 - Nearest Urgent Care: Physicians Immediate Care, 825 S State St, Chicago, IL 60605

Venue Safety Information

- All hotel event staff will be masked in the meeting spaces.
- Banquet staff and food servers will wear gloves in addition to masks.
- Hotel staff will provide enhanced cleaning of surfaces.
- Hand sanitizer and disinfecting wipes will be provided throughout the venue.

Suggested Mitigation Strategies when Eating

Masks are required at all indoor events, except for eating and drinking. Because eating together is a high-risk activity, we suggest the following strategies to lower the risk of transmission:

- Try to spread out as much as possible when eating. Meals will be in the Grand Ballroom, with overflow space available in Boulevard A+B+C.
- Breakfast will be served buffet-style, with hotel staff serving food items to reduce the amount of people contacting shared utensils. Wednesday's lunch will be a boxed lunch, which attendees can take to the Grand Ballroom or their hotel room to enjoy, and Thursday's lunch will be a plated meal served in the Grand Ballroom.
- Consider eating at staggered times. For instance, if you are on East Coast time, you might consider eating breakfast in the first half of the breakfast hour.
- Establish a "pod" of other people that you will eat all meals with to reduce the risk of unmasked exposure to others.
- Consider taking your meals "to go." All meals, including both boxed and plated, can be taken to other places in the hotel venue (including your room).

Suggested Monkeypox Mitigation Strategies

Monkeypox is an emerging health emergency, and we have identified some mitigation strategies that can be used throughout the conference:

- Use hand sanitizer and wipe down surfaces before and/or after use.
- Continue to wear masks in all indoor events at the conference.
- Consider wearing long pants and sleeves.

As a rule, remember that not everyone has the same comfort level as others when it comes to risk tolerance. Ask for consent before hugs or other close contact! Thank you for showing respect and consideration for one another and upholding high standards of public health practice.

Please note: Should you test positive for Covid-19 at the Conference and need to quarantine, CityMatCH will not be held responsible for the additional costs for hotel, food, or changes in travel plans.

We will communicate any changes to our pandemic response through email and on our website. Make sure to check back here before you travel!