



COVID-19 Health and Safety Protocols for Joint Events with the Michigan Section of AWWA

Updated as of 12/10/21

The primary purpose of these protocols is to minimize the risk of exposure to COVID-19 and maximize the health and safety of all participants of MWEA events. Closely following, the secondary purpose is to comply with all state and local rules and regulations in effect at the time of the event.

Although the State of Michigan no longer mandates restrictions, Michigan Water Environment Association (MWEA) requires that all in-person participants, including paid and unpaid attendees, guests, speakers, and volunteers, adhere to these guidelines and comply with any additional requests made by leadership and event staff during the event.

The purpose statement above will guide all actions by leadership and event staff.

Before the Event

Participants will be sent a link to a health screening questionnaire within one week of the start of the event. Anyone experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 will participate virtually unless they receive a test showing COVID negative. The symptoms include but are not limited to:

- fever or chills
- cough
- sore throat
- shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- new loss of taste or smell

During the Event

No onsite registration is permitted this year (2022).

Check-in – We will use a minimal contact check-in process, which may include, but is not limited to, any of the following: deliver materials via US Mail, downloadable files, or as a room drop onsite at the event venue. Onsite participants will receive directions on how to complete the process with little to no contact.

In-person participants will sign a final liability waiver form either online or onsite. No one will be admitted to the event without the signed form submitted. There will be no exceptions.

Masks – for educational events, masks are required for the duration of participation.

Venue – The venue will be exercising enhanced cleaning protocols in the event space when possible. Hand sanitizer stations will be available throughout the event space.

Seating – session rooms will be set to allow for distance between participants as required by current state and local rules and regulations. This may include a combination of traditional room sets as well as social distanced room sets. A participant may not re-arrange venue space.

Personal actions – non-medical grade masks and hand sanitizer will be made available to all attendees for their convenience, regardless of vaccination status.

Symptoms appear – a participant experiencing a COVID-19 symptom will be required to isolate in their hotel room or leave the venue. If the participant is an exhibitor, staff will assist in getting their booth packed up.

Anyone deemed to be willfully or knowingly violating any of the established safety protocols, not complying with requests by event staff, or otherwise posing a health risk to other participants will be expelled from the event immediately without refund.

After the Event

Participants are asked to notify MWEA if they test positive for COVID-19 within two weeks of the event. MWEA will inform all event participants of any possible exposure while maintaining appropriate confidentiality.

Staff

Staff is required to submit proof of vaccination before arriving onsite at an in-person event. The absence of this proof will only mean the staff member may not work onsite. Employment status, future performance evaluations, or other standing within the organization is not affected.

Volunteers

Those volunteering their services to MWEA, either through committee work, presenting without remuneration, or otherwise working on behalf of MWEA, are required to submit proof of vaccination before convening onsite at an in-person meeting or event. The absence of this proof will in no way impact their standing within the organization. Where possible, MWEA will allow the volunteer to participate virtually. The volunteer may also participate wearing a mask and maintaining social distance.