



MWEA 2021 Annual Conference FAQs

1. What does hybrid mean?

Hybrid for this conference means BOTH an in-person option for the full conference experience, as well as a virtual/live-stream option of portions of the conference for those unable or uncomfortable traveling to Boyne Mountain Resort.

2. Will there be exhibits?

Yes, but they will be held outdoors under a tent. To maintain proper social distancing, there will likely be less booths than in the past, but current plans allow 34 exhibit booths. There will be a few restrictions for safety, including a one-way traffic flow pattern as well as limits on food and drink in the tent, but you will still be able to network and meet with vendors.

3. What requirements will be in place?

MWEA will be following all current guidelines from MDHHS, CDC and Safe Meetings in Michigan. Currently these would require masks at MWEA events and maintaining a 6' distance from others. These guidelines apply to vaccinated and non-vaccinated attendees, according to the CDC's recommendations for large gatherings. We will continue to work with Boyne Mountain staff to ensure the safety of all conference attendees, and will share updated information as things change or get added.

4. Can we still network and socialize?

Yes! It might look a little different than previous conferences, but we know networking and socializing are one of the biggest things missing from virtual events, so it is encouraged. We will be maximizing and encouraging outdoor gathering with seating areas around the grounds, but as long as you are respecting and following the safety guidelines, you can network with others.

5. Can I bring my family?

Yes and no. You are more than welcome to have your family join you at Boyne Mountain Resort. However, participation in conference-related activities, including the welcome reception, exhibit night and the awards ceremonies are currently limited to paying conference attendees only.

6. Do I have to wear a mask when I leave my hotel room?

To ensure the safety of you and all other attendees, we will be requiring masks for all conference events.* Masks will be optional at outside MWEA events IF social distancing can be maintained and your conversation partner is comfortable without one. Please be respectful others' varying comfort levels.

Boyne does not require masks indoors or outdoors for fully vaccinated individuals.

*Speakers will have the option to remove their mask during their presentations.

7. Do I have to complete health screening or sign a waiver?

Yes, you will be required to submit a health questionnaire and temperature reading at registration. You will be asked to self-monitor and quarantine if you begin feeling symptoms not related to other conditions. If you begin feeling symptoms at any point prior to or during the conference, please stay in your room and notify MWEA immediately.

You must sign a waiver at registration agreeing to all safety requirements put in place by both MWEA and Boyne Mountain Resort. If you are not able to comply with the requirements, we respectfully ask you to join virtually.

8. What is Boyne Mountain Resort doing to ensure guest safety?

Boyne Mountain has increased cleaning of public areas and changes have been made to general housekeeping and meal service. Please see the current protocols here: <https://www.boynemountain.com/what-to-expect>

Do you have a question that is not answered above? Email kyusko@mi-wea.org