



NHPCO Health & Safety Protocols

NHPCO is working closely with the Memphis Cook Convention Center and Sheraton Memphis Downtown, the state of Tennessee, our exhibitors, supporters and other partners on multiple health and safety protocols in light of COVID-19 to prioritize your safety and well-being during the 2021 Interdisciplinary Conference (IDC21). NHPCO will continue to update this page, so please check back for news and additional guidance as we refine our planning. These protocols for IDC21 (the “Protocols” may be updated at any time in the sole discretion of NHPCO and apply to all attendees of IDC21. NHPCO reserves the right to limit entry to anyone not in compliance with these Protocols, as determined by NHPCO.

Right of Entry Protocols for IDC21 in Memphis, TN

- NHPCO has adopted a “**Vaccination Required**” approach for all attendees, exhibitors and NHPCO staff at IDC21. In practice, this means all IDC21, exhibitors and NHPCO staff will have to provide proof of their COVID-19 “full vaccination” in order to gain access to IDC21.
- For the purposes of right of entry to IDC21, a person is considered **fully vaccinated**:
 - 2 weeks after their second dose in a 2-dose series, such as the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines, or
 - 2 weeks after a single-dose vaccine, such as Johnson & Johnson’s Janssen vaccine
- This guidance applies to COVID-19 vaccines authorized for emergency use by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (i.e., Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna, and Johnson and Johnson (J&J)/Janssen COVID-19 vaccines), and COVID-19 vaccines authorized for emergency use by the World Health Organization (i.e., AstraZeneca/Oxford), as of May 10, 2021¹.
- If an attendee, exhibitor or NHPCO staff member does not meet these requirements, they are NOT considered fully vaccinated and will not be permitted to enter the in-person conference in Memphis, TN.
- **To demonstrate proof of full vaccination**, for right of entry to the in-person portion of IDC21 in Memphis, TN, NHPCO is evaluating validation solutions with a focus on accessible, privacy-preserving technologies. We will provide attendees, exhibitors and NHPCO staff further guidance in the coming weeks on accepted proof and validation solutions.
- Additionally, NHPCO recommends all attendees, exhibitors and NHPCO staff comply with travel guidelines issued by the CDC when traveling to Memphis.

¹<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated.html> and <https://www.who.int/teams/regulation-prequalification/eul/covid-19> and <https://www.who.int/news/item/07-05-2021-who-lists-additional-covid-19-vaccine-for-emergency-use-and-issues-interim-policy-recommendations>.

Before Leaving Home

- Follow relevant guidance provided by the [Center for Disease Control](#) (CDC) and [World Health Organization](#) (WHO) or your local health authority.
- Adhere to government issued travel restrictions and guidance issued by the region you will be travelling to ([Memphis specific information](#)) and the region you are travelling from.
- Evaluate your own health and that of people you are in close contact with.
- Stay home if you feel sick.
- Visit the [CDC website for information](#) on how you can get the COVID-19 vaccine.

Onsite During the Event

- NHPCO is assessing solutions for validating vaccination status. NHPCO will likely use one or more digital health applications to confirm that the vaccination status of each attendee, exhibitor and NHPCO staff member complies with the applicable right of entry protocols. NHPCO will continue to look to evolving guidance and best practices to implement the “Vaccination Required” approach.
- The anticipated tool(s) will display a IDC21 pass status that will be checked (along with an IDC21 badge) to permit entry for attendees, exhibitors and NHPCO staff onto the conference.
- NHPCO is currently assessing evolving public health guidance regarding the use of masks in large gathering settings. We will provide additional guidance on mask wearing on at IDC21.
- Maintain appropriate social distancing during exhibit hall hours and networking opportunities. Seating during sessions and meals will be appropriately spaced out based on the CDC and WHO guidelines.
- Frequently wash your hands or utilize hand sanitation stations placed strategically throughout the conference space. Memphis Cook Convention Center and Sheraton Memphis Downtown will provide enhanced cleaning throughout the conference space, but it’s up to you to keep your hands clean.
- Avoid handshaking. Elbow bumps, shaka signs, sign-language waves, and the Namaste are highly encouraged!
- Attendee/audience seating may be modified to allow for compliance with reduced capacity guidelines, and room sets may be modified to accommodate increased spacing.
- Memphis Cook Convention Center and Sheraton Memphis Downtown have adjusted their food and beverage service to be as safe as possible. The buffet offerings are protected by plexiglass to ensure the menu items cannot be compromised. Staff members plate items for guests versus having attendees touching the utensils and plates. When we offer plated meals the only items pre-set are covered water glasses and rolled silverware. All items are set with service by course. Condiments are personalized to avoid passing and sharing.
- NHPCO is exploring best practices for on-site networking events. We will work to offer robust opportunities to engage with your peers and colleagues on-site, with modifications to traditional event settings that help mitigate risks. Specifically, events may include access to outdoor areas, individually portioned food/beverage, alternative food/beverage service protocols, adjusted spacing, and other accommodations. Please stay tuned for more details about specific IDC21 networking events.

Post-Event

- Based on current contact tracing advice from health authorities, if you test positive for COVID-19 up to 14 days after returning home, please notify the NHPCO via email at education@nhpco.org.

Health and safety measures implemented by the NHPCO prior to the event are subject to change. Any violations of the Attendee COVID-19 Health & Safety Policy may result in prohibiting entry to event or removal from the event.