

NHPCO Health & Safety Protocols

NHPCO is working closely with the Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center, the state of Maryland, 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 2022 Leadership and Advocacy Conference (LAC22). NHPCO will continue to update this page, so please check back for news and additional guidance as we refine our planning. These protocols for LAC22 may be updated at any time in the sole discretion of NHPCO and apply to all attendees of LAC22. NHPCO reserves the right to limit entry to anyone not in compliance with these Protocols, as determined by NHPCO.

If you are unable to travel to Maryland, please considering registering for the on-demand portion of the LAC22, filled with great on-demand education, virtual exhibit hall, networking, and more!

Right of Entry Protocols for LAC22 in National Harbor, MD

“Fully Vaccinated” and “Up to Date”

- NHPCO has adopted a **“Vaccination Required”** approach for all attendees, exhibitors and NHPCO staff at LAC22. In practice, this means all LAC22 attendees, exhibitors and NHPCO staff will have to provide proof of their COVID-19 “full vaccination” and “up to date” status to gain access to LAC22.
 - The determination of “Fully Vaccinated” and “Up to Date” status will be based on CDC guidance applicable at the time of the Conference. As of January 2022, fully vaccinated means a person has received their primary series of COVID-19 vaccines and “up to date” means a person has received all recommended COVID-19 vaccines, including any booster doses(s) when eligible.
- 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 National Harbor, MD.
- **To demonstrate proof of full vaccination and “up to date” status**, for right of entry to the in-person portion of LAC22 NHPCO has contracted with InHouse Physicians, S.C. (IHP) to verify vaccination status and assist in making LAC22 as safe as possible. An IHP clinic will be open to all LAC22 attendees for any emergency or sickness, COVID-19 or other. The clinic will be in the Camellia 1 Meeting Room at the Gaylord (Ballroom Level). Upload a copy of your vaccination card: [Vaccine Verification Link](#).
- Additionally, NHPCO recommends all attendees, exhibitors and NHPCO staff comply with travel guidelines issued by the CDC when traveling to National Harbor, MD.

Onsite Testing

- All LAC22 participants should prepare to rapid antigen test themselves upon arrival. NHPCO will provide at least one test per attendee. Access to the conference registration will be contingent upon negative test results. Additional self-tests will be available to participants. Please plan your arrival to allow a minimum of 1 hour for testing prior to joining any conference activity.
- If you test positive for COVID-19 you may take a second molecular test provided by IHP. If both tests are positive, you will need to depart the conference (not the hotel) immediately. If the tests are contradictory, the results of the second molecular test will prevail. NHPCO is not responsible for test accuracy. You can access conference materials in the on-demand educational library. Terms and Conditions still apply and we encourage you to follow the [CDC guidelines on what to do when you test positive](#). To extend your hotel stay, please call the front desk directly. Contact conferences@nhpc.org to adjust your registration from in-person to on-demand and refund the difference.
- Additional information outlining the verification and testing process is included within this document.

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>.

2022 LEADERSHIP & ADVOCACY CONFERENCE

March 5-6, 2022 Preconference
March 7-9, 2022 Main Conference
March 7-May 31st On-demand Content Available
Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center, National Harbor, MD



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 ([National Harbor specific information](#)) and the region you are travelling from.
- Evaluate your own health and that of people you are in close contact with. If you have any symptoms, we ask that you please stay at home. Check your symptoms using the [CDC's COVID-19 Self-Checker](#).
- Stay home if you feel sick. If you have been instructed to quarantine or isolate, or believe you have been exposed, please stay home. Contact conferences@nhpco.org to adjust your registration from in-person to on-demand and refund the difference.
- Pack Your Mask. Masks are encouraged in all indoor public places affiliated with LAC22.
- 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 an LAC22 pass status that will be checked (along with an LAC22 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. Currently, masks will be required in all indoor public spaces affiliated with LAC22. We will provide additional guidance on mask wearing closer to the conference.
- 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. The Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center 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.
- The Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center's parent company, Marriot, has put together a Global Cleanliness Council. For more information on the Council and it's “Commitment to Clean”/ enhanced safety protocols, please visit: <https://gaylordhotelsclean.marriott.com/>
- The Gaylord will adjust their food and beverage service to be as safe as possible. Food handlers and supervisors are trained on safe food preparation and service practices. The company's food and beverage operations are required to conduct self-inspections using its food safety standards as guidelines, and compliance are validated by independent audits. We have also enhanced sanitation guidelines and training videos for STARS that include hygiene and sanitizing practices. In addition, the company has modified operational practices for in-room dining and has designed new approaches to buffets.
- 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 LAC22 networking events.
- The LAC22 schedule has been modified to allow for sessions starting and ending at staggered times which will allow for less congested transitions between sessions.

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Post-Event

- Based on current contact tracing advice from health authorities, if you test positive for COVID-19 up to 10 days after returning home, please notify NHPCO via email at conferences@nhpco.org.
- In an abundance of caution, consider working remotely for a few days post-conference as symptoms may develop later and testing before returning to in-person team interaction.

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.