

SFPE's Health and Safety Plan FAQs

What safety and health protocols will be in place for people who attend?

The SFPE Annual Conference & Expo safety plan includes a range of measures designed to safeguard the health and safety of all conference attendees, exhibitors, guests, spouses and staff. All individuals who attend the in-person conference in Baltimore will be required to follow established safety and health protocols. Protocols may be updated at any time, and SFPE will communicate any changes to our meeting registrants and exhibitors.

Our current safety plan includes the following:

What we expect of attendees

- Attendees must provide proof of full vaccination, or a negative Covid-19 test within 72 hours of checking in at registration. We will accept verification onsite via the [CLEAR app](#) (preferred method), a physical or digital photocopy of a card, receipt, or test result. We will accept antigen or PCR test results.
- Per current City of Baltimore ordinances, attendees must wear a face covering at all times when indoors, except when drinking or eating. Face coverings must cover the nose, mouth, and chin.
- Attendees are asked to follow good hygiene practices, including washing hands frequently, using hand sanitizer, and maintaining physical distancing when possible.

What SFPE will do

- Arrange for spaced-seating sections at all sessions.
- Support hotel staff in their efforts to provide a safer meeting for our attendees. View the [Marriott's Commitment to Clean](#) for details.
- Continue to evaluate these and additional protocols, as well as CDC recommendations, to mitigate risk of spread during the event to provide a safe, enjoyable conference experience.
- Continue to provide any additional updates on the conference website leading up to the event and provide timely communications via email and the mobile app during the conference.
- Continue our scheduled routine planning meetings to review, adjust, and communicate practices and policies to help our attendees, exhibitors, speakers, guests, and staff take part in this event.

Is there a maximum number of people allowed to attend a session?

Yes. Each meeting room in the hotel has capacity limits, and seating is based on a first-come, first-seated basis.

Do speakers need to keep a mask on during their presentations?

No, provided enough space remains between presenters, attendees, and other speakers. Speakers must re-mask once they complete their presentations.

What about the receptions and coffee breaks?

- Per City of Baltimore ordinances, all individuals must wear mask indoors except when eating or drinking.
- The opening reception is indoors. We are setting the room with tables and chairs spaced apart. Seating is not mandatory. In any case, whether you are seated or standing, please remember to remain at least three feet away from your fellow attendees.
- Rather than buffets, food items will be distributed. Bartenders will hand you your beverage. At this time, coffee break stations will be self-service.

What factors did SFPE consider?

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, we have continuously monitored and assessed various factors concerning delivering an in-person meeting. These include:

- Rules and guidance from the CDC and federal, state, local, and venue levels.
- Evolving public health and safety protocols and vaccination projections.
- The safety and health of our members, speakers, exhibitors, volunteers, and staff.
- Business trends, including travel forecasts for 2021.

These factors remain fluid, and we will continue to monitor them to ensure we can deliver a safe, informative, inspiring, and fun event.

Link:

[SFPE Annual Conference & Expo COVID-19 Information Page](#)