



## **ESC's COVID-19 Event Policies for Austin 2022 TMAF**

The Energy Solutions Center (ESC) is looking forward to returning to live TMAF conferences but recognizes the risks involved with returning to in-person events. That is why the safety of all attendees is a shared responsibility of ESC, the hotel, our partners, and ultimately each attendee. ESC is doing its part by monitoring and complying with local, state, and federal guidelines to the extent applicable to our event and implementing our own safety protocols. Each attendee must also do their part by adhering to applicable regulations and all health and safety guidelines, policies, and protocols implemented by ESC and our partners throughout all phases of the event.

***Please read this document carefully and in its entirety. By reading this document and completing a registration form for the Austin 2022 TMAF, you acknowledge the risk associated with attending TMAF and agree to follow all health and safety policies set by ESC. Please consult a health care professional or ask the ESC staff any questions regarding your attendance.***

### **What is COVID-19?**

The World Health Organization (WHO) states that the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) is an infectious disease caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus. The virus can spread from an infected person's mouth or nose in small liquid particles when they cough, sneeze, speak, sing, or breath. These particles range from larger respiratory droplets to smaller aerosols. Most people infected with the virus will experience mild to moderate respiratory illness and recover without requiring special treatment. However, some will become seriously ill and require medical attention. Everyone is at risk of contracting COVID-19.

The best way to prevent and slow transmission rates is to be well informed about the disease and how the virus spreads. Covering your nose and mouth with a mask while indoors, staying at least 6 feet apart from others, and regular hand washing are scientifically proven methods of slowing the spread of the COVID-19 virus. It is recommended that all eligible individuals get the COVID-19 vaccine. Ultimately, if you are experiencing any of the known symptoms of COVID-19 or believe you were exposed to a sick individual, it's best practice to stay home and self-isolate.

*Information pulled from the WHO's [website](#).*

### **Watch Out for Symptoms**

According to the United States Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), people sick with COVID-19 report experiencing a wide range of mild to severe symptoms. Below are some of the most common reported symptoms. ESC stresses that if you are experiencing any of these symptoms or have been exposed to anyone experiencing these symptoms, you must: 1) stay

home, self-isolate, and do not attend TMAF; and 2) contact a healthcare professional for treatment.

People with the following symptoms may have COVID-19:

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

This list does not include all possible symptoms. Please consult the CDC website for a full list of COVID-19 symptoms.

*Information pulled from the CDC's [website](#).*

### **ESC's Policies and Protocols:**

The Energy Solutions Center's current plans include numerous protocols to ensure the safest event experience possible for our attendees. Along with the Omni Hotel's COVID-19 protocols, ESC commits:

- Pandemic Compliance Advisor through every stage of the evening planning process.
- Monitoring and meeting the latest safety local, state, and federal guidelines.
- Providing additional hand-sanitizing stations.
- Modifications to event space that help mitigate risks such as adjusted spacing of seating in session rooms and networking areas and food/beverage service protocols.
- Having an action plan in place should any attendees become sick during the conference.

### **Omni Hotel's "Stay a Part of Safety" Standards:**

The latest version of the Omni Hotel and Resorts' COVID clean and safety standards is available for [download](#). Here are some of the highlights:

- All hotel employees are required to stay home if they are feeling sick.
- All hotel employees are required to wear gloves, hairnets, and masks while preparing and handling food.
- Increased frequency of cleaning, disinfecting, and sanitizing of high-touch surfaces and areas using U.S. Environmental Protection Agency recommended Ecolab cleaning and sanitizing products.
- Guest sanitizing stations are available throughout the hotel in public areas and front desk.
- The hotel's engineering team will increase the cleaning of HVAC systems, bring in more outside air as allowable, and frequently replace air filters in all spaces throughout the hotel.
- The hotel will provide informational signage to communicate recommended social distancing, traffic flow, and other health alerts.
- Housekeeping staff implemented additional cleaning and sanitizing steps in guest rooms and corridors.
- Increased cleaning and sanitizing of surfaces in meeting spaces.
- Single-use, individually sealed food items will be used when practical.
- Seating in meetings spaces will be spaced out according to social distancing guidelines.

## **Attendee Code of Conduct**

ESC seeks to promote healthy behaviors and maintain a healthy environment to reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19 while at the Austin 2022 TMAF. We are working collaboratively with the Omni Austin Downtown Hotel to meet the guidelines for COVID-19 safety. We appreciate your cooperation in ensuring a safe and healthy environment for you, fellow attendees, and others.

By registering and attending the Austin 2022 TMAF, you agree to the following codes of conduct:

- I agree that entry into the TMAF meeting space is conditional upon either showing proof of vaccination or showing proof of a negative COVID-19 test taken at least 72 hours before the TMAF start date (March 1, 2022).
- I agree that my registration fee will not be refunded if I do not meet the requirement of showing proof of vaccination or a negative COVID-19 test and I am denied entry into the meeting space.
- I agree not to travel if I or a member of my household or a guest traveling with me feels sick.
- I will not attend the Austin 2022 TMAF if I or a member of my household or a guest traveling with me feels sick.
- I will not attend the Austin 2022 TMAF if I or a guest traveling with me tested positive for COVID-19 or have been exposed to someone with symptoms or someone with suspected confirmed COVID-19.
- I agree to wear a mask covering my nose and mouth during all indoor TMAF events except when eating, drinking, or presenting.
- I agree to wash my hands regularly with soap and water and to use hand sanitization stations.
- I agree to follow social distancing guidelines to the best of my ability.
- I agree to follow safety protocols set by ESC, the Omni Hotel, and all other local, state, and federal public health guidance and laws.
- I agree to cooperate with ESC, the Omni Hotel, and public health officials regarding investigations and reporting of COVID-19 infections or suspected infections prior to, during, and after TMAF.
- I will conduct myself in a considerate, kind, and safe manner towards attendees, ESC and hotel staff, vendors, and TMAF partners.
- I agree that COVID-19 guidelines for the Austin 2022 TMAF can be changed or updated by ESC staff and that I will follow updated guidelines accordingly.
- I agree that if I fail to adhere to the guidelines, the ESC staff holds the right to dismiss me from participating at TMAF and that my registration fee will not be refunded.

If you feel sick or otherwise do not meet or want to meet the requirements for attendance or no longer wish to attend the conference, please contact Carolyn Dorf at [cdorf@escenter.org](mailto:cdorf@escenter.org) and consult our refund policy. While at TMAF, it is your responsibility to follow ESC's guidelines and all other safety protocols required by ESC. Your participation and compliance is essential in creating a safe environment for all attendees, ESC and hotel staff, vendors, and TMAF partners.

### **How will I show proof of vaccination or a negative COVID-19 test?**

ESC will be using [Event Farm CLEAR Health Pass app](#) to upload and approve attendee vaccination cards or negative COVID-19 tests. Attendees will be required to download the free app and upload their vaccination card or negative COVID-19 tests before entering the TMAF

event space. More information with instructions will be emailed to attendees ahead of the start of TMAF and will be included in the TMAF Attendee Book that will also be emailed prior to the start of the conference.

### **When is a person considered fully vaccinated?**

In general, people are considered fully vaccinated:

- Two weeks after their second dose in a 2-dose series, such as the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines, or
- Two weeks after a single-dose vaccine, such as Johnson & Johnson's Janssen vaccine.

If you don't meet these requirements, you are not considered fully vaccinated.

This means that the final doses of your vaccine must be completed by Tuesday, February 15, 2022, to be considered fully vaccinated in time for TMAF. Please note that booster shots will not be required for entry into TMAF but are highly recommended. If you are attending TMAF and have not yet received your booster shot, while it is not required, it's recommended to get tested as an extra precautionary measure.

*Information pulled from the CDC's [website](#).*

### **Mask Guidelines**

Face masks covering the nose and mouth will be required for all indoor TMAF events except when eating, drinking, or presenting. Face masks will not be required in outdoor settings.

Acceptable masks include:

- Cloth masks, included homemade ones
- Disposable surgical/medical procedural masks
- Dust masks
- N95 mask without vents

Masks that will not be accepted include:

- Bandanas
- Masks with vents
- Gaiter masks
- Face shield only

Please consult the CDC's Mask Guide for more [information](#).

*Information pulled from the CDC's [website](#).*

### **Contact Information:**

Please note that the ESC reserves the right to modify and update these policies as local, state, and federal guidelines shift. ESC will notify TMAF attendees of these updates as they happen.

If you have any questions regarding anything in this document or ESC's COVID-19 Policies, please contact Carolyn Dorf at [cdorf@escenter.org](mailto:cdorf@escenter.org).