



ESC's COVID-19 Event Policies

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, 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.

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 Hyatt Regency Columbus' COVID-19 protocols, ESC commits:

- 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.

Hyatt Regency Columbus "Safety First, Wellness Always"

Hyatt's Global Care and Cleanliness Commitment can be found [HERE](#).

Here are some of the highlights:

- **Cleaning & Sanitation:** Regular cleaning and sanitization of frequently touched surfaces and high-traffic guest and colleague areas; Use of hospital-grade disinfectants and enhanced cleaning protocols for guest rooms.
- **Hand Hygiene:** Hand sanitizer stations or wipes are placed prominently throughout.
- **Face Coverings:** In accordance with the CDC's updated face covering guidance based on COVID-19 community levels, face coverings are no longer required for guests in low or medium COVID-19 community level areas, regardless of vaccination status. Guests are encouraged to continue to wear face coverings.

Regarding Columbus, Ohio, the following was pulled from the [Columbus Convention & Visitor Bureau](#) website:

Visitors and locals are no longer required to wear masks by the City of Columbus. On Monday, March 7, 2022, Columbus City Council lifted the city's existing mask mandate, based on health data and recommendations from the CDC, Columbus Public Health and the city's health commissioner; however, it should be noted that individual restaurants, attractions and businesses can choose to require specific health and safety practices on their premises (such as mask-wearing) based on what they believe to be best for their customers and businesses. Further information and details regarding COVID-19 guidelines can be found with the Office of the Mayor and Columbus City Council.

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 TMAF. We are working collaboratively with the 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 TMAF, you agree to the following codes of conduct:

- I agree that entry to the TMAF meeting and reception spaces is conditional on vaccination or a negative COVID-19 test taken at least 72 hours before the TMAF start date.
- I agree that my registration fee will not be refunded if I do not meet this requirement or am not able to travel due to COVID-19. However, the registration fee is able to be credited to a future TMAF or other ESC event.
- 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 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 or confirmed COVID-19.
- 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 host hotel, and all other local, state, and federal public health guidance and laws.
- I agree to cooperate with ESC, the host 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 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 Ashley Duckman at aduckman@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.

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 June 5, 2022.

Mask Guidelines

Face masks covering the nose and mouth *will not* be required for TMAF events. Face masks are optional and will be made available for those who need one. Please respect other attendees, staff, and hotel employee's choice on whether or not to wear a face covering during the event.

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

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

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](#).

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 Ashley Duckman at Aduckman@escenter.org