

APTA MA Return to In-Person Events: Safety Protocols and Guidelines (November 2022)

A. Introduction

APTA Massachusetts will resume in person events effective June 21, 2022. This will include, but not be limited to, Special Interest Group (SIG) educational programming and networking events, continuing education offerings, and Chapter meetings, and Annual Conference. As events return to in-person, the APTA MA wants to maximize the safety of all participants while benefiting from the in-person experience. These guidelines are based on the best evidence available and will be modified as new data and guidelines from authorities and experts become available. Any member of the APTA MA Executive Committee reserves the right to flag an internal review of this document as new information becomes available.

Due to the fluctuations in Covid cases that may be present at any given time, the APTA MA reserves the right to convert any on-site event to a virtual event as deemed necessary. Should a last minute event change occur, the APTA MA Executive Committee will determine next steps per CDC/state guidelines. APTA MA reserves the right to alter requirements for attendance of in-person events that may be more restrictive than current state/CDC guidelines.

B. COVID-19 Public Health and Safety Standards

APTA Massachusetts will comply with all [state COVID-19 guidance](#).

C. APTA MA Member Safety

- a. APTA MA members and non-member event registrants who have a fever and/or any symptoms of COVID-19 should not attend in-person events.
 - i. An event registrant who experiences a fever or symptoms of COVID-19 prior to a scheduled in-person event can inform the event coordinator prior to the scheduled time of the in-person event to receive a full refund or the option to switch to virtual attendance when available.
- b. APTA MA will require all attendees of all in-person events to attest to being symptom free prior to or upon arrival at an in-person event.
- c. Events will follow the most up-to-date masking order from the state of MA, as is indicated and consistent with the [Commonwealth's Public Health mask order](#).
 - i. Facilities in which events are hosted reserve the right to implement their own masking guidelines and requirements (i.e., specific University/College rules), to which APTA MA will comply.
- d. APTA MA will specify event attendee requirements for each event surrounding vaccination status and/or proof of negative COVID test, as is indicated by the CDC and Massachusetts state guidelines.
 - i. Requirements for each event will be clearly stated at time of registration.

- ii. Requirements for event attendees may vary dependent on type, size, and/or location of event.
 - 1. Facilities in which events are hosted reserve the right to implement their own Covid-19 guidelines and requirements (i.e., specific University/College rules), to which APTA MA will comply.
- iii. Requirements for event attendees will be determined by the event organizers along with the APTA MA Executive Committee and may include, but is not limited to, the following:
 - 1. APTA MA may require proof of vaccination (defined as a full series plus booster) or a negative antigen test 24 hours prior to the event to be shown upon entrance to the event space or at the time of registration.
 - 2. APTA MA may require proof of vaccination (defined as a full series plus booster) for all event attendees at the time of registration.
 - 3. APTA MA may require proof of negative antigen test 24 hours prior to the event to be shown upon entrance to the event space or at the time of registration.
- e. APTA MA will ensure adequate space will be provided for social distancing for all programming in which food will be offered.

D. Personal Protective Equipment and Other Essential Supplies

- a. APTA MA will ensure that they have adequate supply of PPE and other essential supplies for the expected number of attendees expected at each event.
- b. APTA MA will provide masks and/or provide reimbursement to event organizers for the supply of masks necessary as needed at each event.

E. Infection Control

- a. APTA MA event coordinators will ensure access to hand sanitizer for all attendees.
- b. APTA MA will have an established plan for thorough cleaning and disinfection of all utilized event space areas, as is indicated/guided by the facility in which the event is held (i.e., university, hospital conference room, etc.).
- c. APTA MA members and non-members attending an event will be required to provide a current e-mail address. In the event an attendee tests positive within 48 hours of attending an event they will report this to the event organizer. This report will be kept confidential; however, everyone present at the event will be contacted informing them of possible exposure. A link to DPH guidelines will be provided informing individuals of steps to take after a possible exposure.