

2021 Safety First Commitment

Frequently Asked Questions – Attendees

US Events

CLEANING & HYGIENE



Q. Will there be sanitization stations on the exhibit floor?

A. Yes, SME, in cooperation with each facility, will provide fixed hand sanitizer stations throughout all common spaces, including exhibit floors, meeting spaces and high-traffic areas.

Q. Will there be established cleaning procedures?

A. Yes, every facility will be certified by the Global Biorisk Advisory Council (GBAC) or provide comparable health and safety protocols.

- Each facility will be deep cleaned prior to setup and again before the event begins.
- Building intake and air change rates will increase during occupied event hours, and HVAC air filters will be replaced with MERV-13 or equivalent filters.
- Continuous, daily cleaning of high-touch areas such as door handles, restrooms, and food and beverage areas will be conducted.
- Exhibitors will be asked to frequently disinfect their products, displays and high-touch areas.



HEALTH & SAFETY

Q. Will face masks be required?

A. Currently, in California and Chicago (WESTEC, AeroDef, FABTECH and RAPID + TCT), face masks will be required by venue, local or state mandate for all in attendance, regardless of vaccination status. In Texas, South Carolina and Massachusetts (HOUSTEX, SOUTHTEC and EASTEC), face masks are currently not required for those who are fully vaccinated. Individuals who are not fully vaccinated should wear a mask and maintain physical distancing guidelines at these events.

Guidelines for Mask Wearing:

- Individuals should bring their own face masks.
- Masks should fit snugly around the sides of your face; cover the nose, mouth and chin; and be affixed prior to arrival at the facility.
- Mask removal will be allowed only for eating and/or drinking in designated food and beverage areas throughout the event.
- Per the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines, a face shield is not an appropriate substitute for a face covering.
- Masks will be provided by show management to those who need them.

Q. Will face masks be provided on-site?

A. **Yes**, face masks will be provided if needed.

Q. Will there be temperature checks upon entry?

A. **No**, temperature checks will not be conducted upon entry to the events.

Q. Will I be required to complete a COVID-19 questionnaire before entering an event?

A. **No**, event participants will not be required to answer a COVID-19 prescreening health questionnaire upon entry. However, you will be required to accept our terms and conditions during registration. [Click here to review our event Terms and Conditions.](#)

Q. Will I need to provide proof of a recent negative COVID-19 test?

A. **No**, we will not require proof of a recent negative COVID-19 test to participate in SME events.

Q. Will proof of vaccination be required?

A. **No**, we will not require proof of vaccination to participate in SME events.

PHYSICAL DISTANCING

Q. What physical distancing standards will be put in place?

A. SME events will be guided by the facility or national and local health authorities.

- Increased health and safety signage will be posted throughout the exhibit halls.
- Separate entrances and exits may be designated wherever possible.
- Exhibit hall floor plans may include wider aisles.

Q. Will traffic flow be monitored?

A. Yes, to help ensure a safe event experience, our Customer First Ambassadors will monitor high-traffic areas of the event to help ensure physical distancing protocols are followed.

EXHIBIT HALL & EXHIBIT BOOTH CAPACITIES

Q. What is the exhibit hall capacity?

A. Exhibit hall capacities are based on a number of factors and will be clearly posted.

Q. Will exhibit booths have capacity limits?

A. No, however exhibitors are encouraged to space out their lounge areas and provide open spaces within the booth space.

CONFERENCE & MEETING ROOMS

Q. How will seating be determined for conference sessions?

A. Reduced seating capacities may be implemented according to the facility's mandate and physical distancing guidelines.

Q. Do I have to pre-register for conference sessions?

A. No, you can register for conference session on-site based on availability. However, registration is required for all in-person sessions. Credentials will be scanned prior to entering meeting rooms.

Q. Will cleaning protocols be in place for conference rooms?

A. Yes, high-touch areas such as podiums, mics, mic stands, table surfaces and chair arms will be cleaned between sessions and between speakers as applicable.

Q. Will there be virtual alternatives for attending conference sessions, panels and keynotes?

A. Yes, select keynotes and special presentations will be livestreamed and accessible from internet-enabled devices (laptops, mobile phones, tablets, etc.). Please refer to individual event websites for more information.

TRANSPORTATION

Q. Will shuttle bus services be provided?

A. Yes, shuttle bus services will be available at select events and may have reduced capacities.

Q. Will alternative transportation options be available?

A. Yes, taxis and ride-sharing services are available and strongly encouraged at SME events.





sme.org/safetyfirst

Please Note: Our protocols and guidelines are subject to change based on applicable federal, state/province and local rules at the time of the event. SME reserves the right to change these guidelines and standards at any time. In the event that any changes are made, the updated standards and guidelines will be posted.

