

2022 Spring Assembly COVID-19 Guidelines

Written by the Mountain East Province Executive Committee

The purpose of this guideline is to create a clear outline to allow for a safe transition to in person Province meetings and other events. The recommendations within this guideline have been created and discussed and approved by the 2021-2022 MEP Executive Committee and reviewed by the 2021-2022 MEP Advisory Committee and MEP Risk Management Committee.

Considerations for the creation of the guideline were the number of COVID-19 cases in the community of the Host Chapter and the various regions of the Mountain East Province, length of the event, total number of individuals attending the event, CDC, state, and local guidelines. Additionally, recent pharmacy organization conferences (APhA, HOPA, etc.) of similar or larger size were referenced as a comparison.

Due to the recent change in masking guidelines at each of our Collegiate Chapters and the local policy change in Prince George's County where the Spring MEP Assembly will be held, we as an executive committee encourage, but will not be requiring, masks to be worn during the business session or banquet of the Province Assembly.

Attendees will abide by all local venue masking policies when applicable.

General Guidelines are listed below:

- All attendees of a Province Assembly or event will abide by the guidelines set forth by the MEP Executive Committee outlined in this document.
- Any attendee who is sick or exhibiting symptoms is encouraged to self-isolate and not attend Province events so as not to infect or put others at risk. Follow current CDC guidelines for testing and any possible self-isolation.
 - If unsure of symptoms, it is highly encouraged to be tested for COVID-19 72 hours before traveling to the Province Assembly.
- Masks covering the nose and mouth are highly encouraged, but not required, indoors at the meeting/banquet events in accordance with the county COVID-19 risk level of the area.
 - Masks will be available at the venue for those interested and/or who need a mask.
- Frequent hand washing and/or hand sanitization throughout the event is recommended
 - Hand sanitizer will be available for use at the Assembly venue.
- The Province will not be verifying CDC cards; however, venues outside of the agenda may require proof of vaccination. We highly encourage attendees to have their cards on hand just in case. **Venues in and around the area are requiring vaccine cards for entrance.**
- All attendees are recommended to have received all appropriate vaccines per CDC guidelines, including boosters.

Please do not attend if exhibiting COVID-19 related symptoms or if unvaccinated and have a known COVID-19 exposure within the last 5 days per current CDC recommendations.

At the Spring MEP Assembly, we will have a colored sticker display protocol to dictate a Brother's comfort level on their nametags. The following colored stickers will be available for Brother's to place on their badge to signify their comfort level with physical contact due to the COVID-19 pandemic:

Red	Signifying zero physical contact requested. Social distancing requested.
Yellow	Signifying cautious interactions requested. Personal space requested, but elbow bumps are acceptable.
Green	Signifying handshakes and high fives are acceptable. Please verbally ask before hugging.

Responding to Reports of Symptoms/Confirmed COVID-19 at or after the Event

Anyone exhibiting symptoms related to COVID-19 should not attend and/or should immediately leave the Province Event, notify the MEP Satrap and Vice Satrap, and get tested as per CDC recommendations.

- Should any Brother attending a Province Event test positive for COVID-19, they are encouraged to self-quarantine as per CDC recommendations.
- Should any Brother attending a Province Event test positive for COVID-19, they are encouraged to share this information with the MEP Satrap and Vice Satrap.
- Should any Brother acting as a chapter delegate attending a Province event test positive for COVID-19, they are encourage to notify their Chapter's Regent and then notify the MEP Secretary of the delegate change.
- Should there be any confirmed COVID-19 exposures, the attendees of the Province Event shall be informed via e-mail that there was a possible exposure, without revealing the name of the affected individual so as not to violate HIPAA.

Admission into Meeting Space

Upon registration for the Assembly, a screening process will occur for each Brother that includes the following:

- Verification the Brother does not have a documented fever currently or in the past 72 hours.
- Review of symptoms most commonly associated with COVID-19.
 - Cough, increased work of breathing, sneezing, etc.
- Contact with others who have tested positive, have a pending COVID-19 test, or are exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19.
- The wording of questions as well as the platform to be utilized are left to the discretion of the host chapter and Mountain East Province.

**Special thanks to Southeast Province and Mid-America Province for providing a model that inspired our guideline.