

Southern Management Association 2022 Annual Conference COVID Safety

The Southern Management Association takes the COVID-19 pandemic seriously. While attending any sort of large indoor gathering poses some risk of contracting airborne illnesses, there are precautions you can take to minimize your level of risk. Please read the following information about how we're taking precautions to minimize the risk of transmission, and join us in these efforts to keep all of our conference attendees safe.

Vaccination

We encourage you to get vaccinated and boosted for Covid-19. Nonetheless, given the efficacy rates of the various vaccines and prevalence of new subvariants, there is still the risk you or others will become infected with COVID-19. Your personal safety is up to you and will dictate certain decisions, such as whether you eat with others and attempt to maintain social distance. This is your decision to make. However, if you are not vaccinated, your risk of infecting others is much higher; therefore, we suggest you wear a mask when indoors or utilizing shared transportation. If you are vaccinated, feel free to wear a mask as you see fit.

Conference Safety Measures

We will be taking the following safety measures during the conference:

- Masks will be made available in public areas (e.g., registration) for those of you who would like to wear one and/or may have forgotten your own.
- Masks are not required, but they are highly encouraged.
- We encourage frequent handwashing.
- Hand sanitizer will be available on site.
- We encourage fist bumps over handshakes or hugs.
- Banquet staff will be required to wear a mask and gloves while serving food.

Duty to Self-Monitor

Please take extra precautions prior to, and while traveling to, the conference in terms of social distancing and mask wearing. If you develop symptoms while in attendance at the conference, please self-quarantine and call the hotel front desk. We will arrange to have a testing kit delivered (contact-free) to you free of charge in your room.

If You Become Infected

An inherent risk of exposure to COVID-19 exists in any public space where people are present. By attending SMA 2022 and its related events, functions, and/or sessions, you voluntarily assume all risks related to exposure to COVID-19, and neither the Southern Management Association nor any of its sponsors, employees, or agents can be held liable for any infection or consequent issues.

If you do become infected, seek medical help as needed, isolate yourself from conference attendees, and refrain from conference activities. Please understand that, if necessary, our staff will ask you to visit a local doctor.

Refund Policy

For your reference, the SMA conference refund policy is as follows: More than one month before the conference, full refund; less than one month and more than two weeks, half refund; less than two weeks, no refund. Nonetheless, we will work with you if you must cancel due to illness. If you have any symptoms of COVID-19 in the 48 hours before or during the conference, please contact our office staff when it is feasible to do so.

CDC Guidance

For up-to-date guidance regarding the Covid-19 pandemic, please refer to the CDC [website](#).