

WSBA COVID-19 Health and Safety Policy for Guests/Attendees at WSBA In-Person Meetings and Events

Effective Nov 18th, 2022

Updated June 29th, 2023

As WSBA returns to in-person meetings, events, and gatherings, and in order to ensure consistent levels of safety for WSBA employees, volunteers, and guests at our in-person events, WSBA will follow the COVID-19 guidance provided at the [CDC website](#). If state or local health authorities impose stricter requirements than the CDC, WSBA will comply with the state or local requirements in the area in which the event is held.

Policy Specifications

These procedures will apply to WSBA in-person events (i.e., CLE seminars, receptions, retreats, committee and supreme court board meetings). These procedures do not apply to regulatory events (i.e., bar exam and regulatory hearings).

Wherever possible, a virtual attendance option will be provided for any WSBA event or meeting.

This policy is subject to change as the conditions related to the COVID-19 pandemic evolve, or other significant health and safety issues arise.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)

1. **How do we know the CDC community level and whether any local health requirements beyond the CDC guidance are in place for an event?**
 - a. Prior to the in-person meeting or event, please visit the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) website regarding Community Level guidance. Reviewing this guidance is on a county-by-county basis in which the in-person meeting or event will be held. For local health requirements, the website for local health authorities in a particular geographical area should be consulted.
2. **Who is responsible to verify the current community level and/or local health requirements?**
 - a. It varies.

Verifying community level status and local health requirements for an in-person meeting or event should be verified by the staff liaison or staff lead for that meeting or event.
3. **When do we need to update attendees about any COVID requirements for an event?**
 - a. If the CDC community level (and thus the guidance) changes, notice to attendees should be provided to meeting or event attendees 24 hours in advance. If there are local health requirements that exceed the CDC, those requirements should also be followed and communicated within the same timelines.

4. **Can our meeting or event require health and safety practices in addition to the recommendations provided by the CDC such as requiring a mask or a negative PCR test?**
 - a. It is important WSBA members, staff, guests, and members of the public be treated equitably. Therefore, health and safety procedures should remain in alignment with, and not exceed, CDC guidance unless and until such time as the organization's policy changes. The exception to this would be if a local health authority imposes requirements in excess of CDC guidance.

5. **Will there be any changes to the Employee Vaccination Mandate?**
 - a. No, not at this time. As a condition of employment, WSBA will continue to require the first vaccination series from employees unless they qualify for an exemption.