

Office of Optometry Relations CE Department

Health and Safety Conference Protocols for Participants

The University of Houston College of Optometry is committed to creating an event experience where participants can safely and effectively come together. Developed utilizing [CDC Guidance for Organizing Large Events and Gatherings](#), as well as, [UH COVID-19 Guidelines and Protocols](#), the following Health and Safety Conference Protocols apply to all in attendance:

Pre- Conference

Acknowledgement and Agreement to Attend

- **By attending this conference, participants:**
 - acknowledge the inherent risk of exposure to COVID-19 that exists in any event or public space, including this conference
 - agree to contribute to creating a safe and healthy environment by adhering to the Conference Protocols

Travel to Attend

- Participants are encouraged to adhere to the [CDC Guidelines for Domestic Travel During COVID-19](#).

Health and Infection Exposure Self-Assessment

- **Before arriving to the Conference Venue each day, participants should conduct the following Self-Assessment:**
 1. *Are you exhibiting any Coronavirus Symptoms which may include?*

▪ <i>Fever or chills</i>	▪ <i>New loss of taste or smell</i>
▪ <i>Cough</i>	▪ <i>Sore throat</i>
▪ <i>Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing</i>	▪ <i>Congestion or runny nose</i>
▪ <i>Fatigue</i>	▪ <i>Nausea or vomiting</i>
▪ <i>Muscle or body aches</i>	▪ <i>Diarrhea</i>
▪ <i>Headache</i>	▪ <i>Note: This list does not include all possible symptoms.</i>
 2. *Have you tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 10 days?*
 3. *Have you knowingly been exposed to someone with COVID-19 or suspected/presumed COVID-19 in the past 10 days?*
 4. *Have you traveled internationally in the past 10 days?*
- If you answered **YES** to any of the above questions, you should **NOT ATTEND THIS CONFERENCE**.
- Contact the CE Office in writing at optce@central.uh.edu for cancellation and refund options.

At the Conference

- **To create a safe and healthy environment for all, participants are encouraged to:**
 - wear masks according to current CDC Guidelines
 - physically distance in common areas and meeting space
 - practice healthy hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette
 - utilize contactless systems as provided
 - occupy the same seat in the meeting space for lectures and meals for the duration of the program
 - report any COVID-19 related concerns to optce@central.uh.edu

- **Check-In Desk, CE Attendance Scanning Stations and Exhibit Booths:**
 - Space layouts and allotted time to Check-In, Scan In/Out for CE Attendance and Visit Exhibit Booths allow for physical distancing between participants, CE staff and company representatives.
 - Participants are encouraged to stagger arrival times to check-in, as well as, visit exhibit booths.
- **Meeting Space:**
 - Space layouts allow for physical distancing between participants, speakers and CE staff.
 - Participants are encouraged to occupy the same seat in the meeting space for lectures and meals for the duration of the program.
- **Note: Common Areas and Meeting Space will be cleaned and sanitized according to COVID-19 event protocols by venue staff.**

Post-Conference:

- **Contact Tracing:**
 - If a participant tests positive for COVID-19 within 3 days of attending the conference, the participant must immediately notify the CE Department by contacting Jennifer Ebert at jebert@central.uh.edu.
 - Participants will be contacted and advised to follow [CDC Quarantine Guidelines](#).
 - Additionally, the CE Department will inform the venue and college of the confirmed case.

Please be advised this is a working document to be adjusted as necessary to address the most current CDC, UH, local and/or state guidelines and pandemic conditions.

8.30.2021