

HEALTH & WELLNESS POLICY & PROCEDURES FOR CSTE MEETINGS & GATHERINGS

Last Updated March 1, 2023

CSTE is committed to providing its members, partners, and staff with an experience that is as safe as possible and will be implementing a number of precautions to help prevent transmission of COVID-19 and other illnesses at in-person conferences, meetings, and gatherings. **By attending a CSTE conference, meeting or gathering, an attendee agrees to comply with the recommendations of the policy, as outlined below.** This policy will be continually updated with new information and procedures as they are determined, and CSTE may update this policy at any time based on the evolving information learned.

VACCINATION RECOMMENDATION

- CSTE recommends in-person attendees be [up-to-date](#) with their COVID-19 vaccination and boosters.

MASK & PHYSICAL DISTANCING RECOMMENDATIONS

- Masks will be **optional** during all meeting and gathering functions.
- All attendees should be mindful and respectful of other attendees' when eating, drinking, or presenting. CSTE will not monitor or enforce mask usage by individual attendees but we ask attendees to honor the request of others to physically distance. CSTE reserves the right to ask an attendee to leave should they be deemed rude, uncooperative, or disrespectful.

PRE-EVENT PROTOCOLS

- Stay home if you feel unwell or were recently exposed to COVID-19, develop [symptoms of COVID-19](#), or test positive for COVID-19 within five (5) days prior to the event. Contact the primary event contact to provide notification that you will not be able to attend the event due to COVID-19 or any other illness.

ATTENDEE ONSITE PROTOCOLS FOR COVID-19

- Attendees experiencing potential [symptoms of COVID-19](#) during the event should remain in their hotel room, get tested for COVID-19, and seek medical care. Attendees should not return to in-person attendance until they receive a negative COVID-19 test result and symptoms have resolved.
- Options for COVID-19 test-to-treat facilities are available at <https://covid-19-test-to-treat-locator-dhhs.hub.arcgis.com/>.
- CSTE does not provide financial assistance for medical treatment, hotel accommodations, or travel to return home should an attendee develop COVID-19 symptoms or test positive for COVID-19 while attending an event.

CSTE MEETING & GATHERING ATTENDANCE WAIVER

In consideration of your in-person participation and of any travel to attend a CSTE Meeting, you acknowledge and agree (1) the contagious nature of pathogens, including the SARS CoV-2 virus that causes COVID-19, newly emerging variants; (2) that you are aware of the existence of the risk of becoming exposed to and/or infected by COVID-19 and/or other pathogens from the actions, omissions or negligence of yourself and others, including, but not limited to, travel by both air and/or road, and participation in activities related to your travel; (3) understand that COVID-19 and/or other pathogen's impact on individuals is varied and may have long-term and/or serious implications on person's health including those that are currently known and those that are yet unknown and/or unanticipated; and (4) you are fully and



personally responsible for your own safety and actions while and during your participation and you recognize that you may be at risk of contracting COVID-19 and/or other pathogen. You hereby release and agree to hold CSTE harmless from, and waive on behalf of yourself, your heirs, and any personal representative any and all causes of action, claims, damages, costs, expenses and compensation for damage or loss to yourself and/or your property that may be caused by any act, failure to act of CSTE, or that may otherwise arise in any way connected to your travel and attendance of the conference.

In the event of any injury requiring medical care, you, or your own personal health insurance will be responsible for payments of all medical costs. You further agree that you are not covered by CSTE's liability, medical and/or travel insurance and thus are responsible for obtaining your own. You agree to accept all financial responsibility for the costs related to any emergency treatment and/or travels.

By participating in a CSTE meeting, whether in-person or virtually, you grant CSTE the right to take and distribute photographs, video, audio and/or electronic reproductions of events and activities for use in CSTE print and digital materials.

All attendees are expected to be respectful and professional to CSTE staff, presenting authors, moderators, and other attendees throughout the conference, including breaks, networking events, and receptions. CSTE reserves the right to ask an attendee and/or their guests to leave and/or log out of the conference immediately should they be deemed rude, uncooperative, unprofessional, or intoxicated. In such cases, the attendee's registration fees will not be reimbursed under any circumstances.

For the consideration of all attendees, please turn all electronic communication devices to vibrate or off and refrain from texting during the sessions. If you must leave a meeting room during a presentation, do so with limited interruption to other attendees.