

Expectations and Requirements for Participation at APTA CSM



We are excited to welcome our members and guests to APTA's Combined Sections Meeting in San Antonio, Texas, Feb. 2-5, 2022. The APTA Board of Directors asks for your help to promote the safety of all participants at APTA CSM, which will be operated consistent with CDC guidance related to COVID-19.

As of Dec. 27, these are our expectations for participation. No refunds will be provided to those who fail to comply with these requirements and are prohibited to participate.

- **Proof of vaccine or negative test:** In order for participants to pick up their required badge, attendees must show proof of vaccination or a negative COVID-19 test within 72 hours of registration.
 - **Proof of vaccine:** Boosters are encouraged, [consistent with CDC guidance](#), however [the CDC considers people fully vaccinated](#) two weeks after the second dose of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines or the single-dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine. Attendees will receive an email on Jan. 4, 2022, with instructions on how to provide proof of vaccination in advance of the conference via the CLEAR Health Pass app. Onsite manual review of vaccination status will be available, however use of CLEAR is strongly encouraged to reduce waiting times for everyone. A photo of your vaccination card on your phone is acceptable if providing proof onsite.
 - **Proof of negative test:** Those showing proof of a negative COVID-19 test instead of proof of vaccination are responsible for [finding a testing facility](#) and getting tested. Only results from a testing facility are acceptable. Self-tests are a great way to monitor your health status to ensure you don't participate if infected, but self-test results won't be accepted as proof of a negative test at APTA CSM.
- **COVID-19 tests:** Getting a COVID-19 test, regardless of vaccination status, is a great way to support a healthy event. The [HHS website](#) includes information about how to get a free COVID-19 test.
- **Personal responsibility:** Attendees should immediately remove themselves from participation if testing positive or simply exhibiting [COVID-19 symptoms](#). If you learn you were in "close contact" with an individual (less than 6 feet away for at least 15 minutes over 24 hours) who is positive for COVID-19, please follow the [CDC's recommended protocols](#) for testing and potential quarantine based on vaccination status.
- **Masks:** Regardless of vaccination status, masks will be required for all indoor events, except when speaking at a microphone as part of event proceedings or when in the act of eating or drinking.
- **Food and drink:** Food and beverage will be prohibited inside session rooms to ensure masking. The only exception is for speakers, who may be unmasked during their presentation.

The above approach is consistent with current CDC guidance. We thank you for your critical partnership to enable everyone to have a healthy experience.

Frequently Asked Questions About COVID-19 and APTA CSM 2022

- **Do APTA's COVID-19 expectations and requirements for participation conflict with Texas law?**
No. APTA's above requirements aren't in conflict with Texas law, including the Texas governor's [executive order](#) that prohibits compelling the COVID-19 vaccine against a person's objections.
- **Will venue staff follow APTA's COVID-19 expectations and requirements?**
APTA staff working at APTA CSM are required to be vaccinated and comply with the above expectations and requirements. Staff employed by the various San Antonio venues (including the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center and participating hotels) cannot be mandated to be vaccinated,

however they are required to wear masks. As of December 2021, 97% of [adults in Bexar County](#) had received at least one vaccine dose and 80% were fully vaccinated.

- **Will seating in San Antonio be distanced?**

No. With more than 10,000 attendees expected onsite, distancing in session rooms or throughout the conference experience isn't possible, nor is distancing a CDC requirement.

- **Is in-person attendance in San Antonio required to participate in APTA CSM?**

No. There are three options to participate in APTA CSM as an attendee:

1. **In-person:** Attend in person, Feb. 2-5, with the ability to gain up to 1.8 CEUs (18 contact hours) and receive free access to the on-demand content in March (without additional CEUs).
2. **On-demand (virtual) with CEUs:** Experience approximately one-third of the APTA CSM program on-demand in March and earn up to 1.2 CEUs (12 contact hours).
3. **On-demand (virtual) without CEUs:** Experience approximately one-third of the APTA CSM program on-demand in March without CEUs at a discounted rate.

See the [APTA CSM rates and registration page](#) for more information. The advance registration rate for in-person has been extended through Jan. 17. The on-demand rates are consistent through the close of the virtual experience in March.

- **Do speakers and exhibitors need to attend in person?**

Yes. The in-person attendee experience depends on in-person participation by accepted speakers and exhibitors. Speakers are responsible for discussing any attendance challenges with their section program chair to determine if the session needs to be cancelled or if speakers can be substituted. Exhibitors with conflicts should contact Meredith Turner at meredith_turner@AFassanoCo.com.

- **Can I get a refund if unable to participate in APTA CSM due to COVID-19?**

Cancellation requests for preconference and/or full conference registrations received by Jan. 3, 2022, will receive a full refund minus a \$60 administration fee. There will be no refunds for no-shows or cancellations after Jan. 3, 2022. Cancellation requests must be submitted in writing to the APTA Registration Center, aptacsm@mcievents.com.

- **Will APTA prohibit participation for those who fail to comply with these COVID-19 expectations and requirements?**

Yes. Participant badges are required, demonstrating proof of vaccination or a negative test. Those with badges who refuse to comply with mask or food/drink requirements will have their registration revoked. No refunds will be provided to those who fail to comply with our COVID-19 expectations and requirements and, as a result, are prohibited to participate.