

Navigating the Tides: FOSTERING DIVERSITY AND LEADING CHANGE



2022 Annual Conference & Exhibit COVID-19 Guidelines

Updated December 16, 2021

NEWEA is excited to connect in person with our water industry colleagues at the 2022 Annual Conference & Exhibit, taking place at the Boston Marriott Copley Place, Boston, MA, January 23-26, 2022.

To ensure we can provide a safe event experience, it is vital that all event participants abide by the guidelines below. These guidelines follow the requirements set forth by the [Boston Marriott Copley Place](#), [City of Boston](#), and [State of Massachusetts](#). Should any of the above entities implement any new requirements that supersede the guidelines below, NEWEA will update our guidelines to comply.

Any event participant who does not observe any of the below protocols and/or fails to heed the health and safety instructions given by NEWEA staff at the event may be removed from the Conference without a refund.

1. **Vaccines:** All event participants **must be fully vaccinated** to attend NEWEA's 2022 Annual Conference in person. Fully vaccinated, as defined by the [CDC](#), means an individual must have completed their cycle of a two-dose vaccine (Pfizer or Moderna) or a single-dose vaccine (Johnson & Johnson) at least two weeks prior to attending the Conference. NEWEA will be using a third-party service to verify vaccination status during registration.
2. **Masks:** A mask covering the nose and mouth must be worn by all attendees in all conference-designated programming areas. Masks may be removed when eating or drinking. Presenters will also be unmasked to allow for lip reading and sound clarity.
3. **Social Distancing:** Session rooms will have limited capacity to promote physical distancing. Seating capacity at tables will also be limited. Avoid close physical contact (handshakes, hugs, etc.) and instead greet fellow event participants with a wave, elbow bump, etc.
4. **Venue Safety Precautions:** The Boston Marriott Copley Place has implemented numerous protocols to minimize the risk of infection. The hotel is equipped with air filters that comply with CDC recommendations. Hand sanitizer stations will be placed outside of all meeting rooms, and the rooms will be cleaned and refreshed each night. Bathrooms in the meeting space will be cleaned twice daily and again at night. Signage will be placed throughout the hotel instructing guests to wear masks.
5. **Health and Hygiene:** Event participants should practice frequent hand hygiene, including hand washing and the use of hand sanitizer, which will be available

throughout the facility. Individuals who are experiencing a fever, cough, loss of taste/smell, nausea, shortness of breath, cold or flu-like symptoms, and/or related symptoms; have a pending COVID test; and/or have tested positive for COVID in the last 14 days must refrain from attending the in person event. A virtual event option will be available for those unable to attend in person.

6. **Illness at the Conference:** Attendees who experience any COVID-19 symptoms during the Conference should:
 - a. Immediately exit the conference space and return to their hotel room or home to isolate and seek medical diagnosis, as well as treatment if needed.
 - b. Alert NEWEA staff in writing via mail@newea.org that they are experiencing symptoms.
 - c. Personal information and health status **will not** be shared with fellow event participants.
7. **Contact Tracing:** Any event participant who tests positive for COVID-19 within 14 days of attending the Conference is required to notify the NEWEA office in writing at mail@newea.org. To the greatest extent possible, this email notification should include the program elements attended by the individual, such as specific sessions. NEWEA will use this information to inform other event participants of potential exposure. Personal information and health status **will not** be shared with fellow event participants. NEWEA will encourage attendees to monitor for symptoms and get tested at their own discretion.

We intend to deliver a high level of hygiene and safety protocol during our events to ensure our attendees, speakers, exhibitors, and sponsors can connect, learn, and return to business, effectively and safely, however there is still an inherent risk of exposure to COVID-19 in any public place where people are present.

More information about COVID-19 can be found on the [Center for Disease Control's](#) website. By voluntarily choosing to attend NEWEA's Annual Conference & Exhibit, event participants assume all risks associated with exposure to COVID-19.