

## Keeping 2022 EHDI Conference Attendees Safe and Healthy

The 2022 National EHDI Conference organizers are committed to holding a healthy, safe, and successful in-person conference March 13-15 at the Duke Energy Convention Center in Cincinnati, Ohio. This document outlines what has been and will be done to keep attendees safe and healthy during the COVID-19 pandemic. Directives from the state of Ohio, the city of Cincinnati and the CDC and will be regularly monitored and used to modify these guidelines as needed and updates will be posted on the [conference website](#).

### The 2022 EHDI Conference will Have Both In-person and Virtual Options

The in-person conference will be held at the Duke Energy Convention Center (DECC) in Cincinnati, OH. People who do not attend in-person are invited to register for the virtual option. Those choosing the virtual option can use ZOOM to view in real-time all of the plenaries, presentations, and posters, and some of the instructional sessions and ancillary meetings. All registrants (both in-person and virtual) will also be able to view recordings of almost all conference sessions at any time for two months following the conference. **EHDI stakeholders who are unable or unwilling to comply with the following Health and Safety Guidelines for the conference are invited to attend the conference virtually instead of in-person.**

### Individual's Responsibilities to Reduce COVID Risk

**Vaccination for COVID-19:** All in-person conference attendees are strongly encouraged to be fully vaccinated and boosted (if eligible). If you are not vaccinated, we encourage you to register for the virtual option.

**Wearing masks:** All in-person conference attendees will be required to wear a mask whenever they are in the Convention Center unless they are making a presentation or eating/drinking. Because many people who are DHH rely on lip-reading for effective communication, ask if they prefer that you remove your mask during one-on-one conversations. Free masks (standard and see-through) will be available at the registration desk. If you would rather not wear a mask during the conference, please register for the virtual option.

**Social Distancing:** The DECC has more than triple the amount of space compared to previous EHDI Conference venues. Chairs and tables in the session rooms have been arranged to maximize social distancing and should not be rearranged. Click [here](#) to see an example of how rooms will be set up.

**Personal Interactions;** Participants will be offered a green, yellow, or red wrist band at the registration desk to indicate the level of personal interaction with which they are comfortable:

**green**=handshakes, high-fives, and hugs are acceptable

**yellow**=elbows or fist-bumps only

**red**=no physical contact, stay 6 feet away



You are welcome to exchange your wrist band for a different color at any time.

**Hand Washing and Sanitizing:** Please wash your hands frequently with soap or use the hand sanitizer that will be available throughout the convention center and hotels.

**Personal Responsibility:** Creating a safe conference environment is the responsibility of each person. If you have tested positive or been exposed to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 within 10 days of the conference – please **DO NOT COME** (see [CDC's COVID Self-Checker](#) to learn more about the COVID-19 virus and potential symptoms of concern). If you become ill, contact us and we will arrange for you to switch your registration to the virtual option or give you a full refund.

**If You Feel Sick After Arriving in Cincinnati:** If you are at the conference and begin exhibiting COVID symptoms, please **STAY IN YOUR ROOM**. Contact the registration desk and we will arrange for you to watch sessions over ZOOM and assist you in getting tested for COVID.

## Conference Arrangements to Reduce COVID Risk

**Conference Venue:** All sessions and activities of the 2022 EHDI Conference will be held at the Duke Energy Convention Center (DECC). DECC has achieved the [Global BioRisk Advisory Council \(GBAC\) STAR™ Accreditation](#)—recognized as the gold standard for safe venues. DECC was the first facility in Ohio to receive this accreditation which is an indicator of their commitment to safety and cleanliness.

**Expanded Cleaning Protocols:** Going beyond the standards of the GBAC STAR Accreditation, the DECC uses expanded cleaning and sanitization in all high touch building areas, including but not limited to:

- Restrooms;
- Escalator and stair handrails;
- All entrance revolving door handles, main door handles, and push bars;
- Public furniture;
- High touch points in meeting rooms (door handles, podiums, chairs etc.).

**Contactless Payments:** Contactless payment options are encouraged for all transactions at the conference. Visa, Mastercard, American Express, or Discover will be accepted. Please avoid making cash payments.

**Food Services:** All Food and Beverage managerial staff are Servsafe certified, ensuring that the regulations provided by the Ohio Department of Health will be adhered to strictly. Plexiglass partitions in food and beverage areas will be used ensure the standard of care for both staff and guests. Individually sealed and packaged disposable utensils and condiments will be provided. Tables and chairs will be spaced to allow for social distancing during meals and breaks and disinfected on a regular basis. Coffee stations will be attended.

**Skilled Staff:** All employees at the Duke Energy Convention Center will be wearing masks and have received training regarding COVID-19 safety. Individuals performing cleaning and housekeeping duties have received additional training regarding cleaning methods, product use, and other activities. Additionally, all convention center employees are required to participate in a daily health and wellness certification that includes checking their temperature prior to reporting to work.

**Hand Sanitizer:** Contactless hand sanitizing stations will be present throughout the building for use by all staff and attendees.

**Exhibit Hall:** To promote social distancing, the aisle width in the exhibit hall has been increased to allow for less congested traffic flow between booths. Signage will be placed throughout the hall to remind attendees and exhibitors of social distancing and hygiene recommendations. Hand-sanitizing stations will be placed throughout the exhibit hall and the exhibit hall will receive a nightly deep cleaning.

**Hotels:** Special pricing for EHDI Conference attendees have been arranged at the [Hyatt Regency Cincinnati](#) and the [Hilton Cincinnati Netherland Plaza](#). Both hotels are among the leaders in the nation with regards to COVID cleanliness and mitigation protocols with the Hyatt being GBAC Star™ accredited and the Hilton following their nationally acclaimed CleanStay Program. See more information about the COVID protocols being followed at these hotels for the [Hyatt](#) and the [Hilton](#). It is important to remember that the hotels will have other guests who may not agree with the standards we are proposing for Conference attendees. EHDI Conference attendees should be examples of good public health practices and do whatever we can to protect ourselves and our colleagues.

**Elevators:** It is particularly difficult to social distance in an elevator. Consider using escalators or stairs whenever they are available and appropriate.

**Communication and Reminders:** Signage and verbal reminders about the COVID-19 safety practices will be repeated frequently during the conference. If you have any discomfort with or objection about our efforts to promote consistent use of these practices, we encourage you to register for the virtual option.