

NEA RA 2022 COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is this layered risk mitigation strategy I am hearing about?

A. NEA utilizes a layered mitigation strategy, as recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), to create a safe and healthy space to connect in-person while also providing a virtual option as an accommodation for those who are unable to meet NEA's COVID-19 requirements or are otherwise at increased risk of serious illness from COVID-19. No one safety measure stands alone; it is the combination that provides the safest experience for everyone at the event. The CDC recommends that people attending a large gathering be up-to-date with their vaccines, and recommends against traveling when not up-to-date on vaccines. We closely monitor the COVID-19 situation in areas where we plan and hold events, and while the Omicron surge seems to be behind us, increasingly infectious variants appear to be on the rise around the country. . In order to promote the safest, healthiest events, we believe it is crucial to maintain our layered mitigation approach at this time.

Our layered mitigation strategy includes:

- requiring attendees to wear a KN95 (or N95 respirator) mask or an equivalent in the event space except when eating or drinking;
- decreasing the density of gatherings;
- encouraging people to wash or sanitize their hands frequently;
- requiring a negative COVID-19 rapid antigen test every three days; and
- requiring people to be up-to-date on their COVID-19 vaccinations (meaning all recommended doses in a primary COVID-19 vaccine series plus one additional booster when eligible).

We are providing a way to attend the RA and related events virtually as an accommodation for anyone who is unable to meet the requirements for medical or religious reasons, and for anyone who is unvaccinated for any other reason or is otherwise unable to attend in person due to heightened risk from COVID-19.

Q: Do I need to be vaccinated?

- A. Anyone attending the RA in-person must be up-to-date on their COVID-19 vaccinations, as recommended by the CDC. Up-to-date means you are fully vaccinated and have received one booster when you are eligible.

Q: Do I need to wear a mask?

- A. All attendees must wear a KN95 mask (or N95 respirator) or equivalently effective mask. Masks must cover your nose and mouth and must be worn at all times while inside the RA and other NEA event sites, except when consuming food or beverages. Masks must also be worn at all other times as required by event organizers and the venue.

Q: Why can't I wear my favorite cloth mask or a surgical mask?

- A. KN95s and N95s provide the best protection to you and your colleagues, decreasing risks to you and others.

Q: Do I need to test for COVID-19 to attend the RA in person?

- A. Each delegate should self-administer a COVID-19 rapid antigen test prior to beginning travel, and should not travel if the test is positive. This will decrease the likelihood that you will test positive and then have to isolate upon your arrival at the RA.

All attendees—including delegates, delegates' guests, and visitors—at the RA and related events will be required to self-test using a rapid antigen test prior to initial entry to the event and every third day thereafter. (Example: First test on Monday morning, participant must test again on Thursday morning. The Monday test is good for all RA events until the next test is required 72 hours later.) Testing should be done in your hotel room, and you will be provided with information about how to upload test results through Return Safe, NEA's approved third-party app.

NEA will coordinate antigen test distribution with your state coordinator. More on this later.

Q: What is ReturnSafe?

A. Return Safe is a third-party application that allows NEA to confirm a participant's vaccination status, daily health assessment, and a current (within the last three days) negative rapid antigen test. And it allows the participant to quickly show their "green screen" to demonstrate that they are cleared for entry into the event space. NEA's Information Technology Security staff have reviewed and approved the security protocols of the Return Safe app.

Q: How do I set up ReturnSafe?

A. Please follow these simple steps to install and use the ReturnSafe app:
Android users: Install the app from the Google Play Store. Proceed to step 1 below.

iPhone users: Install the app from the Apple App Store. Proceed to step 1 below.

Web (Mobile or Desktop/Laptop): <https://desktop.returnsafe.com>

Step 1: Open the app, click Find My ReturnSafe Space and enter the following code: **neahq**

Step 2: Click the button that says non-employee phone/email, and then follow the instructions on the screen.

Q: What if I test positive at an event and I believe it is a false positive test result?

A. If you believe you have a false positive result on a rapid antigen test, you will need to obtain a negative PCR test result through an authorized test administrator.

Q: What if I had COVID-19 in the last 90 days and I am still testing positive?

- A. NEA asks delegates to self-administer a COVID-19 rapid antigen test prior to initially coming into the event space. This type of test is designed to produce a positive result if you are actively shedding the virus. This is different from a PCR test that may continue to pick up “dead” virus remnants well past the time when a person is infectious.

If you are concerned about producing a false positive, before leaving home, you should check your status using an over-the-counter COVID-19 rapid antigen test. This is the same kind of test that you will need to enter the event. If you no longer have an active infection, you should get a negative test result. If you have only very recently recovered, and you have “proof of recovery” documentation from your medical provider, you should bring that as well. Any documentation of proof of recovery should be dated at least 10 days after the positive test.

Q: What is a close contact and why do I need to know this?

- A. A person is considered a close contact — even if they were wearing a mask — while they were less than six feet from someone with COVID-19 for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period.

If you are notified that you are a close contact, develop symptoms, or test positive, please visit the [CDC Quarantine and Isolation Calculator](#) to determine what precautions you should take to protect yourself and others. This CDC calculator provides guidance on whether or not you need to quarantine and when to test. Provided you are up-to-date on your vaccines and do not develop symptoms, you can continue to participate in the RA in person. For the next 10 days, you must continue to monitor your symptoms and be extra vigilant in wearing your mask around others to protect them if you have had known exposure to COVID-19.

Q: I received a general notice that I may have been exposed to COVID-19 at an RA event, but it doesn't say I was a close contact. What does this mean?

A. The CDC no longer recommends specific case investigation and contact tracing for most COVID-19 cases, except in limited high-risk settings. Rather, people who contract COVID-19 are advised to take responsibility for notifying their close contacts. In the interest of safety and transparency, NEA will issue a general "exposure notification" to all attendees at a particular meeting or event if we are aware of a positive COVID-19 case. If you receive such a notice, it doesn't necessarily mean you were exposed or that you were a close contact, but these potential exposures are why we have a layered mitigation strategy in place — so please continue to keep up with masking, monitoring for symptoms, testing, and good hand hygiene.

Q: Does my child need to be vaccinated to attend Camp NEA (childcare)?

A. If your child is age 5 or older, yes they will need to be up-to-date on their COVID 19 vaccinations. Currently, for ages 5-11 that is a two-dose series. For ages 12+ that is the two-dose series plus a booster if they are eligible (5 months after 2nd shot). You will be asked to provide vaccination status documentation during the registration process.

Q: Does my child need to wear a mask at Camp NEA (childcare)?

A. Yes, if your child is over the age of 2, they will need to wear a mask. We highly recommend a N95 mask or equivalent, however we do recognize that the best mask is one that your child will wear consistently.

Q: Will vaccinated and non-vaccinated children share spaces at Camp NEA (childcare)?

A. No. The groupings of children are listed below. The children will also be socially distanced within the Camp NEA space.

- 6 months – 2 years (Infant and Toddler)
- 3-4 years (Preschool)
- 5-11 years (School Age)
- 12 and up (Teens)

Q: Will the staff working in the Camp NEA (childcare) area be vaccinated and wear masks?

A. Yes. All staff working at Camp NEA will be fully vaccinated and boosted if eligible. They will also wear N95 or KN95 masks while caring for the children.

Q: Will my child need to be tested to attend Camp NEA (childcare)?

A. Yes. You will need to test your child using a rapid antigen test prior to initial entry to Camp NEA and every third day thereafter. (Example: First test on Monday morning, participant must test again on Thursday morning.) You will be asked provide a photo of the negative test before your child can enter Camp NEA. NEA will provide tests for this purpose.