

**Updated: October 03, 2022**

## **COVID-19 PROTOCOLS FOR LARGE NEA EVENTS**

In response to the evolution of the COVID-19 pandemic, changing public health approaches and public attitudes, and revised guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), NEA has updated its COVID-19 protocols for gatherings at which fifty (50) or more attendees are expected. The COVID-19 pandemic remains a serious public health concern. NEA will continue to maintain certain basic mitigation measures to protect participants in NEA events. As always, individuals remain responsible for deciding how best to protect themselves, but as a union we will continue to emphasize the core principle of promoting a *culture of protecting our collective health*.

- **Vaccinations:** NEA will require meeting attendees to attest that they are vaccinated against COVID-19 or to attest to an exemption for medical reasons or because of a sincerely held religious belief. For purposes of this requirement, “vaccinated” means having completed a COVID-19 vaccine primary series.
  - NEA strongly encourages all meeting attendees to be up to date with their COVID-19 vaccinations. You are “up to date” when you have received all doses in the primary series and all boosters recommended for you when eligible. You can determine if you are up to date with your COVID-19 vaccines by the checking the CDC website here (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/stay-up-to-date.html>).
- **Masks:** Meeting attendees are not required to wear masks. NEA reminds all participants that the decision to wear a mask in a group setting may be based on a variety of personal factors, including individual health concerns, caretaker concerns, upcoming family events, etc. Each attendee’s decision will be supported and respected by the event community.
- **Testing:** NEA will continue to require self-testing with a rapid antigen test on the first day prior to entry to the event. Testing will also be required after the third day of any event that lasts longer than 3 days. (For example, a Friday test result is good for Friday, Saturday, and Sunday.) No one who has tested positive for COVID-19 will be allowed to attend and such individuals will be advised that they must isolate for at least 5 full days following a positive test and may not return to an NEA event until Day 6 and with a negative antigen test result.
- **Symptom Screening/Isolating when sick:** Attendees will be asked to self-screen for COVID-19 symptoms daily and should not attend if they are symptomatic.
- **Virtual Options:** Virtual attendance options will no longer be required or routinely provided for in-person meetings. NEA reserves the right to convert an in-person meeting to virtual in whole or in part in response to changing public health conditions.