



ASSP Chapters: Guidance on Return to Face-to-Face Programming

COVID-19 has changed what we do and how we do it. This includes how our members and leaders approach chapter meetings and events.

ASSP chapters connect members to valuable education, networking and leadership opportunities. We know leaders and members are eager to reconnect through face-to-face programming. At the same time, we all must remain vigilant about protecting the safety and health of members, leaders and attendees. To do so, we must continue to monitor the latest information about this public health issue and recognize how chapter activities may impact the Society's reputation.

While each chapter must exercise its own judgment, we continue to strongly counsel all chapters to align with the Society's approach and hold off scheduling in-person meetings of members or leadership teams through August 31, 2021.

Holding In-Person Events

- For smaller events, which would include some chapter and regional events, use the CDC and OSHA guidance regarding vaccinations, masks, distance recommendations and hand hygiene.
- For larger events, consider including some seating with more distance as some people will have different feelings coming back to indoor events. Work with the host site to determine physical distancing options that can help all feel welcome.
- Communicate clearly and frequently the health and safety protocols or options in place for the event to all registered or potential attendees. Your chapter members likely fall on a continuum of readiness for public gatherings. For those who want to get together, reemphasize the established protocols at the time of the meeting. For those who aren't ready yet, let them know if there are ways to participate remotely or receive an update after the event.
- Require attendees to complete a [COVID-19 waiver and release](#) as part of the registration process.

Additional Considerations

- **Is an in-person event the best option?** Over the past year, we have identified some benefits of virtual meetings. As you plan your chapter meetings, assess your options. Are chapter members ready for in-person events? Are there other ways to accomplish the goals of your event through your existing communication channels or through virtual programming? Please be sure to review and share information and resources with others through the [Chapter and Section Leader group](#) on the online ASSP Community.





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- **What are the current local, state and federal guidelines?** Municipalities and states continue to relax restrictions for in-person gatherings, but these mandates may continue to shift based on local conditions. Please continue to all public health information that may impact your plans for an in-person meeting.

Additional Resources

- [Center for Disease Control - Considerations for Events and Gatherings](#)
- [World Health Organization: Mass Gatherings and COVID-19](#)
- [ASSP COVID-19 Resources Page](#)
- [ASSP COVID-19 Webinar Page](#)

