

Why is IBTTA requiring that all attendees be fully vaccinated against COVID-19?

The safety of our attendees is IBTTA's greatest priority and requiring that they be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 is the best way to keep everyone safe.

Beyond that, this is an opportunity for our industry to demonstrate its commitment to doing whatever is necessary to bring about the end of the pandemic. A vaccine requirement is the best way to ensure that all in-person attendees can participate fully in the event (and its many networking opportunities) without having to worry constantly about the vaccine status of their fellow attendees.

What does IBTTA consider "fully vaccinated"?

Fully vaccinated against COVID-19 means that **at least two weeks have passed since an attendee has received the second shot of either the Moderna or the Pfizer vaccines, or two weeks have passed since they received the single Johnson & Johnson shot.**

If you have received a booster shot for any of these aforementioned vaccines, that's great, but a booster shot is not a requirement. You will still be considered "fully vaccinated" as long as you've had those first two doses (or one dose for the Johnson & Johnson shot).

I'm coming from outside of the United States and have received a vaccine other than the Pfizer, Moderna or Johnson & Johnson varieties. Can I still attend?

Yes, all WHO approved vaccines acceptable, as long as enough time has passed for the vaccine to have reached its peak efficacy (and as long as you can prove you've received the vaccine). If you have more questions about whether your vaccine or your documentation is acceptable, please contact IBTTA directly.

How do I prove that I'm fully vaccinated?

A **photo of your completed vaccination card or any other official documentation will be accepted as proof of your vaccination status.** You can provide this information to IBTTA **before the meeting** [HERE](#).

What will IBTTA do with the information contained on my vaccination card or other proof of vaccination?

IBTTA will record each attendee's vaccination status. **That is the only information that will be kept by IBTTA.** Images of vaccination cards or other documentation will be immediately deleted once proof of vaccination has been established.

I won't be vaccinated by the time the event rolls around. Can I attend if I bring a negative COVID test instead?

Unfortunately, no. **A negative COVID test will not be accepted in lieu of proof of vaccination.**

What if I have a medical or religious reason for not getting vaccinated against COVID-19? Can I get an exemption to the vaccine requirement?

Unfortunately, no. **IBTTA requires all attendees to demonstrate proof of vaccination against COVID-19.** While we will miss having you at the meeting, we believe a vaccine requirement is the best way to ensure that all in-person attendees can participate safely and fully in the event.

Is it a violation of HIPAA for businesses like IBTTA to request proof of vaccination against COVID-19?

No, it's not a HIPAA violation for businesses to ask for proof you've been vaccinated. HIPAA only applies to entities within the healthcare field and it does not prohibit asking questions about someone's health. IBTTA, as a private, nonprofit organization, has the discretion, and the responsibility, to exercise control over its own events. This includes addressing issues such as safety, health, and security. IBTTA may adopt what it believes are reasonable criteria for members, exhibitors, and other participants, and condition attendance on compliance with those criteria. Registration fees and codes of conduct are common examples. During a pandemic, a requirement of full vaccination, and proof thereof, are equally reasonable.

What other COVID-19 safety rules will IBTTA enforce during in-person meetings?

- All IBTTA staff are fully vaccinated and will be 100% masked when on-site.
- Masks are suggested in the hotel meeting space and on buses.
- IBTTA will minimize contact at registration.
- IBTTA will make available personal protective equipment to all attendees and recommends that all attendees bring a supply of masks with them.
- Speaker equipment will be sanitized in between sessions.
- IBTTA will work with the hotel to ensure all protocols are in place to keep public areas sanitized and to limit entry into rooms by hotel staff.

Given the need to be vaccinated, why is mask-wearing required at the in-person event?

IBTTA feels a high responsibility to role-model appropriate safety measures. In addition to closely monitoring CDC recommendations, IBTTA is working closely with the hotel to implement safety protocols based on current best practices and information from state and county officials. With the emergence of variants and the potential for asymptomatic spread even among the vaccinated, our current protocols are designed to protect attendees and anyone with whom they come in contact. We will adjust protocols as needed and as circumstances and new information warrant.

If I can't attend in-person, can I attend virtually?

In some cases, yes. Each in-person meeting in 2022 will vary, so be sure to check the IBTTA Website for virtual or on-demand viewing of programs throughout the year.

Where can I go if I have questions?

If you have additional questions about IBTTA's health, mask, and vaccine requirements, please contact Wanda Klayman at wklayman@ibtta.org.