

# COVID-19 Safety Protocols and Vaccination Policy for EEI Meetings

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, EEI has focused on protecting the health and safety of our employees and their families. With some in-person EEI meetings now resuming, we are extending our health and safety commitment to our meeting attendees, speakers, exhibitors, and other stakeholders.

It is imperative that we all continue to take the precautions necessary to minimize the spread of COVID-19, which will allow EEI to offer the high-quality programming and valuable networking opportunities gained from in-person events.

## Vaccination Policy

It is EEI's policy that anyone attending an EEI-hosted meeting (whether it is held at EEI's offices or elsewhere) be fully vaccinated for COVID-19. In general, people are considered fully vaccinated two weeks after their second dose in a two-dose series for Pfizer or Moderna vaccines or two weeks after a single-dose vaccine for Johnson & Johnson's vaccine.

This policy applies to all EEI staff, as well as attendees, guests, speakers, and exhibitors, unless an exemption is approved by EEI on the basis of a medical or disability-related reason or a religious objection, as explained below.

This policy does not allow for a negative COVID-19 test to be submitted in lieu of vaccination. Currently, EEI is using ReturnSafe, an app that allows attendees to upload vaccination cards for verification.

## Mask Policy

Along with this vaccination requirement, all meeting attendees, speakers, guests, and exhibitors must wear masks while indoors at EEI meetings, regardless of jurisdictional requirements, unless they are eating or drinking.

## Accommodations

In line with federal anti-discrimination laws, EEI will consider limited exemptions to our vaccination policy in instances where an individual is unable to receive the vaccine because of a medical or disability-related reason or a religious objection.

EEI will engage in an interactive process to determine if a reasonable accommodation can be provided, as long as it does not create an undue hardship for EEI and/or does not pose a direct threat to the health and safety of the attendee or others in attendance at the meeting.

Decisions on exemptions and accommodations will be made on an individual case-by-case basis and in line with applicable law.

People who receive exemptions will be required to comply with reasonable accommodations that are designed to protect the health and safety of all meeting attendees. These accommodations could include testing and social distancing requirements, and will depend on individual facts and circumstances.

Please e-mail [vaccines@eei.org](mailto:vaccines@eei.org) for more information on exemptions or if you have questions about EEI's vaccination policy.

To request an accommodation for one of the reasons listed above, please e-mail [vaccines@eei.org](mailto:vaccines@eei.org).

*EEI retains the right to amend or to suspend this policy, in whole or in part, based on state, federal, local, or medical guidelines.*

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## Frequently Asked Questions

### **What is EEI's vaccination policy for attending in-person meetings hosted by EEI?**

All EEI staff, as well as meeting attendees, guests, speakers, and exhibitors, must be fully vaccinated unless an exemption is approved by EEI on the basis of a medical, disability-related, or religious objection.

### **Will EEI allow medical or religious exemptions to the policy?**

In line with federal anti-discrimination laws, EEI will consider limited exemptions to our vaccination policy in instances where an individual is unable to receive the vaccine because of a medical, disability-related, or religious objection.

EEI will engage in an interactive process to determine if a reasonable accommodation can be provided, as long as it does not create an undue hardship for EEI and/or does not pose a direct threat to the health and safety of the attendee or others in attendance at the meeting.

Decisions on exemptions and accommodations will be made on an individual case-by-case basis and in line with applicable law.

People who receive exemptions will be required to comply with reasonable accommodations that are designed to protect the health and safety of all meeting attendees. These accommodations could include testing and social distancing requirements, and will depend on individual facts and circumstances.

### **How does an individual request an exemption?**

In limited circumstances where required by law, EEI may approve an exemption from the vaccination policy for an individual who is unable to receive the vaccine for medical or disability-related reasons or when sincerely held religious beliefs prevent them from receiving the vaccine. Individuals seeking an exemption should email [vaccines@eei.org](mailto:vaccines@eei.org).

### **What is the EEI policy for testing? Will meetings also require a negative COVID test prior to attending?**

EEI's policy does not allow for a negative COVID-19 test to be submitted in lieu of vaccination.

All EEI staff, as well as meeting attendees, guests, speakers, and exhibitors, must be fully vaccinated unless an exemption is approved by EEI on the basis of a medical, disability-related, or religious objection.

**Will there be tests onsite either for symptomatic attendees or on-site attendees who have not been vaccine-verified and do not have access to their card?**

In some instances, rapid tests may be available for use on site in the event an attendee feels ill. No one should arrive to an EEI meeting without having been vaccinated and registered for the meeting.

**What is the mask policy for indoor meeting space? Do we follow the local jurisdiction?**

Masks must be worn indoors when attending EEI meetings regardless of jurisdictional requirements.

**Is ReturnSafe the only app that can be used for tracking proof of vaccine or can Cvent also be used?**

Currently, ReturnSafe is the only app that should be used to verify vaccination status. However, we are monitoring developments in our event registration system that may allow attendees to verify vaccination status during registration.

**Are attendees required to social distance?**

Attendees should be mindful of their space to the extent possible and are encouraged to maintain 6 feet of social distance when able.

**What is the policy for meetings held at EEI? Do they follow the EEI mask and vaccination policy?**

Yes. Individuals attending meetings at the EEI offices must be vaccinated, unless an exemption has been requested and approved, and must wear masks in accordance with EEI policy.

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