

COVID-19 Policies for the FBD Annual Conference

FBD and its member associations (SWAAA, ABC, ASBE, ABIS, ACME, SWDSI, SWAM, SWCRA, SWFA, and SSE) are looking forward to welcoming you to the 49th annual meeting to be held March 2nd – 5th, 2022, at the Hilton New Orleans Riverside in New Orleans, Louisiana. The leadership team for FBD and its member associations to have a safe and productive experience at its conference as the world gradually begins opening doors in the midst of the SARS-CoV-2 global pandemic. We recognize that conditions are continually changing and therefore participants should use the available data and evidence to make decisions regarding their own personal risk in making decisions related to attending the conference.

In order to minimize risks, FBD and its member associations will follow all federal, state, local, and event venue guidelines and policies as recommended. For the safety of all participants, we ask that all attendees, please:

- Be fully immunized against COVID-19 **at least 14 days** before their arrival at the event. All attendees will be required to show documentation of vaccination during check-in at the conference.
- All Unvaccinated individuals will be required to provide proof of a negative Covid test result which covers 72 hours span of conference participation.
- Those individuals with suspected close contact with a COVID-positive individual, or anyone experiencing COVID-like symptoms are asked to forgo attending the 2022 conference.
- FBD has updated our cancellation and refund policy *for COVID-related reasons only and only for 2022* to ensure individuals who are COVID positive are not tempted to attend the conference and potentially diminish the safety of our attendees. For those who receive a positive COVID test within the 10-day window prior to conference start (deemed to be the period from 11:00 a.m. CST on Sunday, February 20th, 2022, through 11:00 a.m. CST on Wednesday, March 2nd, 2022) may request a refund upon sufficient proof (*must include the individual's name, date of the test, and results clearly visible on an official report*). The FBD fee will be returned to you. Each member association will make their own decision about refund of individual association fees.
- If an attendee suspects that they have been exposed to COVID and that you may put others at risk, we appeal to you to cancel your attendance and seek potential reimbursement from your home institution. Non-confirmed cases (e.g., no positive test) of COVID or exposure to COVID will not suffice for purposes of a refund.
- Session rooms, meal functions and special events will be modified as needed to allow for the safe delivery and consumption of food and beverages.

- Attendees are expected to comply with social distancing, aisle directions, capacity limits, mask mandates, etc. implemented throughout the conference so that we can keep all of our attendees safe.
 - All participants attend the FBD conference at their own risk. FBD and its member associations are not responsible for any exposure or actual contracting of COVID. FBD and its member associations are also not responsible for any costs incurred by the attendee due to exposure or contracting of COVID while at the conference, including any travel to and from the conference.
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Each attendee/registrant who registers for the conference will be bound by all conference and venue policies related to COVID-19 as stated by the following:

By registering for this conference and attending, I agree that I will carefully review and, during the event and all event-related activities, comply with all applicable COVID-19-related federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidance, including but not limited to, the specific local COVID-19 regulations and any other protocols that may be implemented by FBD or the conference venue.

I acknowledge that FBD cannot guarantee that attendees will not be exposed to or contract COVID-19 while attending the conference, and that by attending I may be exposed or increase my risk of contracting or spreading COVID-19.

I understand that FBD will continue to closely monitor conditions related to COVID-19 between now and the start of the conference and that FBD reserves the right to modify its COVID-19 related procedures and health screening protocols in its sole discretion at any time.

Registrants/attendees will be informed of any such changes on an ongoing basis. As a condition of attendance and participation, I agree to follow the protocols as required by FBD and/or the conference venue. Refusal to abide by FBD's COVID-19 related procedures may result in ejection from the conference and cancellation of my registration, without refund.

Official COVID-19 Related Links and Mandates

CDC COVID Guidance: [Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) | CDC](#)

State of Louisiana COVID Guidance: [Louisiana Coronavirus | La Dept. of Health](#)

City of New Orleans COVID Guidance: [Coronavirus - NOLA Ready](#)

- See below for actual New Orleans mandate guidelines effective 1/3/22.

Hilton New Orleans Riverside COVID Guidance: [Hilton CleanStay](#)

The New Orleans Health Department is placing restrictions on certain activities pursuant to the Mayor's emergency powers provided by La. R.S. 29:727(F) and the "Mayoral Proclamation to Further Promulgate Emergency Orders During the State of Emergency Due to COVID-19" filed on May 15, 2020. These restrictions will be effective as of January 3, 2022 at 6:00 A.M.

These restrictions include the following mandates related to any indoor gatherings of more than 500 people (which applies to FBD) as well as all indoor dining, indoor fitness, and indoor entertainment and/or performances.

- Individuals attending indoor or outdoor events of more than 500 individuals are strongly recommended to wear masks through the duration of event (except while actively eating or drinking).
- Proof of vaccination or negative antigen or PCR COVID-19 test taken within 72 hours before entry (*must include the individual's name, date of the test, and results clearly visible on an official report*) required at all indoor gatherings at establishments included in these requirements.