
From: ncph@iupui.edu
Sent: Tuesday, March 3, 2020 3:51 PM
Subject: NCPH 2020 and COVID-19 Update



Dear Colleagues,

As all NCPH participants are no doubt aware, we are in the midst of an expanding global coronavirus outbreak. As of March 3, 2020, we are expecting to hold NCPH 2020 in Atlanta, Georgia from March 18 to 21 in the Westin Peachtree Plaza as planned.

The NCPH board and staff have been closely monitoring the spread of COVID-19 and are taking into full consideration the geographic extent of the outbreaks as we adjust NCPH plans to ensure the safety of our attendees. Current US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and World Health Organization recommendations (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html> and https://www.who.int/ith/2019-nCoV_advice_for_international_traffic-rev/en/) do not limit travel internally within the US. We do not anticipate that changing before our scheduled conference, and the CDC and Georgia Department of Public Health are not currently recommending postponing or cancelling large events or gatherings.

We are unfortunate in having to make decisions about the status of the conference when the information about the epidemic remains fluid. Plainly put, we cannot guarantee there is no risk, though health organizations advise that this risk can be minimized. We will maintain a close eye on federal and local restrictions and warnings and plan to update attendees early next week.

At this time, our refund policies are unchanged. We have a number of contractual obligations that we must fulfill, in addition to supporting our public history community in and around Atlanta. Should we have to cancel or substantially alter the meeting, it may take some time to determine the level of refund, if any, that can be provided.

As you move forward with plans to join us in Atlanta, here are some ways we can all work to be prepared:

We are working with the Westin Peachtree Plaza to provide extra hand sanitizer, sanitization wipes, and boxes of tissues throughout the hotel, along with other measures to keep facilities and equipment clean. We will be doing regular checks of the facilities to ensure soap dispensers remain full. We will provide more specific details as they are confirmed.

Attendees should follow standard infection control recommendations and everyday preventive actions to prevent the spread of respiratory infections:

- Face masks are in short supply globally and are being reserved for use by health workers and persons who are ill. The CDC does not recommend use of facial masks for people who are well as a means to protect themselves from respiratory diseases. NCPH will not supply face masks or gloves, but attendees may bring and use their own items if they feel it necessary.
- Avoid close personal contact such as handshakes, hugs, or kisses; elbow or shoulder bumps are preferable alternatives.
- Wash hands with soap and warm water regularly (with attention to between fingers and under fingernails), scrubbing for at least 20-30 seconds.

- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available. Always wash hands with soap and water if hands are visibly dirty.
- Avoid touching face, eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Cover coughs or sneezes with a tissue and wash hands ASAP after a cough or sneeze; dispose of used tissue immediately.
- Clean frequently touched surfaces and objects such as cell phones. On your way by plane? Clean the tray table, screens, windows, arm rests, and air vents of your airplane seating area.
- Food and drink for breakfasts and receptions will be protected to the extent possible. Napkins will be available to use to pick up items. If you touch an item, take it—do NOT put it back on the table.
- If you have symptoms (cough, shortness of breath, and fever) or are ill before the conference starts, do NOT attend and seek medical advice promptly by calling ahead to a doctor's office or emergency room to get guidance. See CDC guidance on [what to do when sick with COVID-19](#).
- If you develop respiratory symptoms during the conference, we ask you to self-isolate to the extent possible and seek medical advice promptly by calling ahead to a doctor's office or emergency room to get guidance. See CDC guidance on [what to do when sick with COVID-19](#).

As always, we encourage attendees in Atlanta to engage in robust live-tweeting of sessions and sharing the gathered threads with us for dissemination after the meeting. We encourage presenters to provide handouts or slides from their sessions, workshops, and working groups for posting to the NCPH meeting webpage so that those unable to attend may still benefit from the content and discussions. For presenters who cannot attend the conference because they would be traveling from countries out of which travel is restricted, we are working to prepare alternative presentation formats.

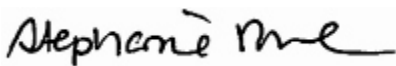
We appreciate your understanding as we work to balance our contractual obligations, our obligations to the city of Atlanta and its public history community, and the professional and personal needs and concerns of our attendees and members.

We will continue to provide updates. If you have individual concerns about NCPH 2020, please email us at ncph@iupui.edu.

Sincerely,



Marla Miller, NCPH President



Stephanie Rowe, NCPH Executive Director



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