



At the Special Libraries Association (SLA), we advocate safety for our members, staff, event workers, and attendees first and foremost. The SLA Board of Directors and SLA Staff Team are monitoring reports from trustworthy sources such as the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the World Health Organization (WHO) and are prepared to take all necessary precautions to ensure members' health and safety. We all have a part to play in the containment of COVID-19 by following all recommended guidelines to curb the spread of illness. Considering the evolving COVID-19 outbreak, SLA wants to make sure communities and volunteer leaders are taking appropriate measures to minimize risk for yourselves and your attendees. Since the situation is continuously changing:

- Follow all guidelines, mandates and information from federal, state and local health authorities about hosting public events, including social distancing and mask-wearing requirement and recommendations.
- If your state or local officials recommend or require postponing or cancelling public events, please follow that advice and cancel the meeting or restructure it to be held virtually.
- Stay up to date with your state and local health authorities, as the situation with COVID-19 is continuously changing.
- If you are holding an in-person event, keep a written record of all communications with the event location and all other vendors to ensure that all recommended COVID-19 health and safety protocols are being followed and planned for (including those recommended by the CDC).
- The event venue has a shared obligation to provide for the health and safety of attendees; both to help protect attendees and to help mitigate the association's risk, be sure to get the venue to agree to undertake – and pay for – a specific, appropriate list of COVID-19 health and safety measures (including those recommended by the CDC).

The CDC's [June 12, 2020 guidance for gatherings](#) is instructive in this regard and may well establish the current "standard of care" that event organizers are obligated to follow in order to mitigate COVID-19 risk for attendees.

SLA has also curated several event protocols and resources. These will evolve over time, so watch this page for more updates:

- Canada: [Risk-informed decision-making for mass gatherings during COVID-19 pandemic](#)
- United Kingdom: [COVID-19 guidance for mass gatherings](#)
- WHO: [COVID-19 and food safety: Guidance for food businesses](#)
- WHO: [Technical Guidance on Points of Entry and Mass Gatherings](#)
- WHO: [Key planning recommendations for Mass Gatherings in the context of the current COVID-19 outbreak](#)

Addition to Registration forms:

A provision to the form whereby attendees affirmatively agree to engage in certain health-and-safety-beneficial conduct while attending the event (e.g., wearing a mask at all times in public areas, engaging in appropriate social distancing, not attending the event if the attendee is ill or has had recent exposure to a COVID-19 case). In addition, the attendee recognizes the risk of attendance,

assumes the risk voluntarily, and agrees not to sue or hold liable the event organizers or the Special Libraries Association in the event the attendee contracts COVID-19 at or in connection with the event.