



## Mississippi Academy of Sciences 2021 COVID-19 Safety Committee Guidelines

The MAS COVID-19 Safety Committee will be monitoring all CDC, WHO, and local MSDH guidelines to ensure the safety of all MAS attendees in preparation for and while in attendance of the MAS 2021 Conference. COVID-19 safety guidelines for MAS 2021 will be updated as the conference approaches and will be posted to the MAS website, <https://msacad.org/>.

### Before Attending MAS:

- Always check local regulations prior to attending an event. MAS COVID-19 Safety Committee will provide current safety guidelines for all MAS attendees.
- Stay at home if you are not feeling well.
- Understand that masks are required to be worn by all MAS attendees in attendance of the conference.

### General Meeting Attendance Guidelines:

- Masks will be worn by all MAS attendees at all times within the Conference Center.
- Responsible social distancing will be maintained by all MAS attendees (recommended 3-6 ft).
- All attendees will take extra precaution with mask removal and social distancing during meal and beverage breaks.
- MAS attendees will commit to frequent hand washing and use of sanitizer stations.

### MAS Registration Procedures:      *Registration Chair: Dr. Shelly Tucci*

- Masks will be worn by all MAS Registration workers and MAS attendees/registrants while at the Registration Table.
- Registration tables will be split by alphabet grouping with increased physical distance between tables to prevent crowding.
- Registration workers are encouraged to conduct registration procedures within a 3-minute window to reduce prolonged interaction.
- Groups are advised to not cluster and crowd at registration table and/or while in line to promote a comfortable environment for all attendees processing through registration.

### MAS Scientific Session Presentation Procedures:      *Enforced by Division Chairs*

- Division Chairs are responsible for enforcing COVID-19 safety guidelines within their session rooms.
- The MAS COVID-19 Safety Committee recommends Division Chairs to assign student volunteers as 'Student Safety Officers' that can assist them with monitoring, implementing, and enforcing the following COVID-19 safety guidelines within their session rooms during their active session presentations:
  - All presentation attendees will wear a mask at all times.
  - Division Chairs may set the rule for their division presentation speakers mask policy:
    - If allowed, presentation speakers may temporarily remove their mask to deliver their presentation and audience questions.



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- Presentation speakers may also remain masked if they wish, or bring a transparent face shield for use during delivery of their presentation.
- Speakers must remain at the podium to present if mask is off. The microphone will remain on the stand at the podium for the speaker to talk into.
- Session moderator and attendees will maintain distances of more than 6 ft from the presenter and the podium. This distance will be supported by non-use of the first row of seats to keep safe distance for all session attendees.
- Microphone, computers, pointers, and adaptors will be wiped down by the Student Safety Officer between use by each presenter (disinfection wipes are supplied for each session room).

### **MAS Poster Session Procedures:**      *Enforced by Poster Division Chair(s)*

- Poster presentations will be performed in two sessions based on even numbered posters or odd numbered posters.
- All poster presenters and attendees are required to wear a mask at all times.
- Posters will be arranged 6ft apart to allow adequate space for presenter and judges.
- Judges are responsible for maintaining 3ft from the presenter in accordance with movements by the presenter to access/reference all areas of their poster.
- Judges are encouraged to allow the student to present and keep questions to the end so that student presentation delivery can be more efficient.

### **MAS Dodgen Lecture Procedures:**

- All attendees are required to enter the room wearing a mask and wear it at all times in the lecture hall.
- Attendees will enter the room maintaining social distance.
- Attendees are advised to sit every-other-chair unless you are among members of your personal/professional cohort and are comfortable sitting next to one another while wearing a mask.