



## **The Annual Convention Pandemic Policy**

**Approved by the Executive Council**

**10/06/2021**

Adopting vaccine and mask requirements for events helps prevent COVID-19 transmission during in-person events. The goal is to ensure that New York State Communication Association conference participants adhere to safety measures while we enjoy connecting with one another at Villa Roma Resort and Conference Center following New York State Coronavirus hotline protocols and best practices.

### **Vaccination/Negative Testing**

Vaccine verification will be performed at registration via a “card check.” The vaccination record must show the name of the person vaccinated, the type of vaccine provided, and the date the last dose was administered. The following are acceptable proof of vaccination:

- a. CDC COVID-19 Vaccination Record Card or photo of the card (or vaccine passport);
- b. Documentation of vaccination from a health care provider or electronic health record;
- c. State immunization information system record; or
- d. For an individual who was vaccinated outside of the United States, a reasonable equivalent of any of the above.

OR,

Proof of a negative test result from a COVID-19 viral polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test taken within 72 hours of the event, or a negative rapid test result that show the name of the person tested, type of test performed, the entity issuing the result (e.g., laboratory, health care entity), test sample collection date, and the test result.

OR,

Proof of an exemption from isolation issued by a local/state Department of Health or a primary physician following a positive test result within the past 90 days.

No records of vaccination or testing will be maintained by NYSCA.

### **Masking and Social Distancing**

Attendees are expected to wear masks in conference session spaces and are strongly encouraged to wear them in public spaces of the hotel, such as the lobby and when entering and exiting the dining room, and outdoors if conditions do not permit social distancing. With masks, responsible social distancing is maintaining personal space of 3 feet. Without masks, responsible social distancing is maintaining personal space of 6 feet.

### **Safety Precautions**

Other measures at the NYSCA conference to promote the health and safety of attendees include:

- Reduced seating at meals from 10 per table to 5 per table, and the option of taking meals “to-go” (please communicate such preference to Villa Roma)
- Socially-distanced seating in session spaces
- The presence of cleaners and sanitizers at the registration and session tables.
- The provision of masks, sanitizers, and tissues to registered attendees.
- Personal social-distancing preference badge stickers

Safety measures in place at Villa Roma include:

- Enhanced housekeeping
- Staff masking
- Staff health screening and temperature checks before shifts
- Expectation of staff vaccination, with most in compliance
- Use of a fresh air system; air is not recirculated