

HIGHLIGHTS OF COVID-19 SAFETY GUIDELINES FOR CONFERENCES AND EVENTS IN NIGERIA BY NIGERIA CENTRE FOR DISEASE CONTROL

Highlights of COVID-19 Safety Guidelines for the conduct of conferences, meetings and events as released by the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control are as follows:

1. A virtual or hybrid event is preferable.
2. Indoor activities can be held in line with existing national regulations on gatherings and strict adherence to public health and social measures.
3. The venue should not accommodate more than 50% of its normal capacity.
4. The sitting arrangement should ensure seats are separated with a minimum of two metres from each other.
5. A designated holding bay for temporary isolation of suspected cases should be in place.
6. A designated ambulance for transportation of suspected or positive cases to treatment centre should be in place.
7. All participants are to physically present a negative PCR result performed not earlier than three days prior to the conference.
8. All participants coming into the venue shall be screened with a digital thermometer and antigen rapid diagnostic test kit before gaining access. Anyone who test positive for COVID-19 by RDT will be isolated in a designated place while re-confirmation with PCR is done within 24 hours.
9. Any individual registered to participate in the event but with COVID-19 presenting symptoms (i.e., fever, headache, fatigue not associated with a known cause, a new/continuous cough, shortness of breath, loss of sense of smell and loss of sense of taste) or other symptoms

should stay away from the venue, seek medical care, and get tested for COVID-19.

10. Daily health checks of participants shall be conducted at the entrance of the venue and any temperature of or above 37.5°C should be reported to the event medical lead or chief medical officer.
11. Develop provision for screening, detecting, testing and monitoring event related cases of COVID-19
12. All participants with comorbidities (hypertension, diabetes) are advised to participate virtually
13. Physical distancing (of at least 2-metres) between participants, officials, and support staff shall be observed at all times.
14. Thorough disinfection and cleaning of surfaces shall be carried out twice daily.
15. Event organisers shall ensure regular cleaning of frequently touched items (i.e., door handles, elevators, gym equipment, etc.) with soap/disinfectant.
16. Hand hygiene stations should be set up at the venue to ensure a high degree of compliance with handwashing. Hand sanitizers should be made readily available.
17. Observe cough and respiratory etiquette of covering of mouth and nose with a tissue, sleeve or bent elbow rather than hands when coughing or sneezing. If coughing persists, isolate and seek medical advice.
18. Avoid shaking hands or hugging.
19. Utensils should not be shared on the table.
20. There shall be a holding bay at the venue with trained staff on COVID-19 prevention protocol.
21. Medical stations at all points must be manned and clearly marked with staff donning appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE).

22. Arrangements should be made with the Department of Public Health regarding diagnosis and treatment of COVID-19 cases identified during the event.
23. COVID-19 Safety protocol officer for the State should be empowered to enforce compliance to safety protocols during the event.