

Safety Protocols

RMC Statement on Safety Protocols for the 2021 Rural Summit (as of 10/28/2021)

The health and safety of our community, staff, and event attendees is RMC's highest priority. As we continue to monitor guidance related to the coronavirus (COVID-19) from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and other organizations, we are committed to taking appropriate precautions to provide a safe environment that does not place our staff or event attendees at undue risk. At this time, the CDC has not indicated in any way that organizations in the United States should consider postponing or canceling events.

As a precautionary measure, RMC is actively working with the conference venue (the DoubleTree Hilton Hotel) to increase sanitization practices and healthy habits for all events. For more information on best practices for prevention, please visit the [CDC coronavirus \(COVID-19\) web page](#).

At this time, RMC announces the following safety measures in effect for our December 1-2, 2021 Rural Summit – these measures may be updated based on changing conditions, and RMC will notify all participants accordingly:

- RMC strongly recommends that attendees wear masks indoors - regardless of vaccination status - in accordance with current CDC guidelines. At this time, local guidelines do not require the wearing of masks indoors, but RMC joins all public health entities in recognizing that mask-wearing is effective in reducing exposure and risk.

We strongly recommend and encourage mask-wearing indoors at the RMC Rural Summit

- There are no limitations on the number of conference attendees. **Booth staff is limited to 2 people per tabletop booth.** ONLY registered participants (attendees, exhibitors, speakers/moderators) will be allowed in the hotel.
- Daily health screenings will NOT be required, however we ask all participants to self-monitor for the symptoms of COVID-19 [listed on the CDC website](#), including a fever of 100.4 or higher, flu-like symptoms, new loss of taste and/or smell, and we ask that participants exercise extreme caution by not participating in the conference or interacting with conference guests if experiencing any potential symptoms.
- Social distancing in all areas of the venue is encouraged and recommended – room and space layouts will be optimized to facilitate distancing.
- Diligent hand hygiene is strongly recommended – hand sanitizer stations will be placed throughout the venue and RMC suggests foregoing handshakes.
- Visible safety signage and social distancing reminders will be posted throughout the hotel.
- No children are allowed in meeting rooms or other event spaces.
- RMC is striving for a “paper-light” event to reduce touch-points at the conference – please limit speaker handouts.
- Refunds of conference registration fees will be granted in full if an attendee chooses to cancel their registration due to possible exposure prior to the event, potential symptoms

prior to or at the event, or general discomfort with attending the conference due to changing COVID conditions.

Given the evolving nature of COVID-19, RMC will continue to closely monitor developments. In addition to safeguarding the health and safety of our event attendees and employees, we remain committed to providing clear and timely communications leading up to and at our events. Should we receive information from the CDC that would prompt us to make adjustments to our event schedule, we will immediately notify all impacted parties via email and post regular updates on our website.

All participants agree to [RMC Hold Harmless Waiver](#).

Contact Amanda Clevenger at (410) 841-5772 or Amanda.clevenger1@maryland.gov with any questions.