



# Essential Considerations for Safely Operating MS&T 2021 — Materials Science and Technology

October 17 – 21, 2021

Greater Columbus Convention Center

## Section 1: Description of Event

The Materials Science & Technology (MS&T) technical meeting and exhibition is the long-standing, recognized forum for fostering technical innovation at the intersection of materials science, engineering, and application. Each year, MS&T brings together scientists, engineers, students, suppliers, and business leaders to discuss current research and technical applications and to shape the future of materials science and technology.

The event's unmatched technical program addresses structure, properties, processing, and performance across the materials community. Its exhibition showcases a wide variety of equipment and services to the automotive, aerospace, instrumentation, medical, oilfield, and energy industries. MS&T is organized by a joint partnership of leading materials science-related societies: the American Ceramic Society (ACerS), the Association for Iron and Steel Technology (AIST), and The Minerals, Metals & Materials Society (TMS).

## Section 2: Overview of COVID Guidelines

MS&T and the Partner Associations (ACerS, AIST, and TMS) with the Greater Columbus Convention Center (GCCC), event contractors, decorators and other service providers, has written these *Essential Considerations for Safely Operating MS&T 2021 —Materials Science and Technology* to provide information for producing MS&T 2021 during the COVID pandemic.

These considerations were written to not be prescriptive, but rather to provide general information and areas for special attention. Each exhibition or event is different. The audience, size, industry, complexity, venue and city must be taken into consideration when planning for the exhibition. MS&T will understand the current laws of the country, state/province and city in which its event is being held, working with local officials to ensure the event is in compliance. Regularly reviewing the guidance of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the World Health Organization (WHO) is strongly advised.

MS&T is committed to keeping its members, attendees and exhibitors updated as new information is made available from our conference partners complying with guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and relevant state and local authorities in an effort to provide a safe and healthy environment for MS&T21 attendees during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

## Section 3: General Principles for Health and Safety Operations

The implementation of reasonable and practical health and safety measures is the best way to protect the environment surrounding our event. We will encourage all attendees to be mindful of these basic principles and practice them in their daily routines. In addition, this document contains no best practices; however, the General Principles should be the cornerstone of producing a successful event in this COVID environment.

### **COVID-19 Vaccination**

The CDC believes that the COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective. They highly recommend everyone 12 years of age and older get vaccinated. MS&T is not requiring individuals to be vaccinated in order to register and participate in MS&T in person.

All MS&T participants, especially those that are not vaccinated, please consider:

### **Physical Distancing**

The MS&T planning teams are working together to build the MS&T program where social distancing is encouraged.

- Socially distanced MS&T exhibit floor plan design
- Socially distanced room sets
- Individual society lounges are placed apart rather than in a line to give more space to members to spread out
- Multiple coffee break stations

Transmission of COVID may be mitigated through physical distancing protocols. State and local health guidelines stress, whenever possible, that all persons not vaccinated should leave at least *6 feet (approximately 2 m)* of empty space to the person closest to them.

### **Face Masks and Face Coverings**

On September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021, Columbus Mayor Andrew Ginther announced a mask order to require masks for all publicly accessible indoor spaces in Columbus, regardless of an individual's vaccination status. The mandate will be included in an executive order signed by Mayor Andrew Ginther and went into effect on Friday, September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

MS&T and the Partner Associations (ACerS, AIST, and TMS), working in partnership with the MS&T21 venues, are complying with all Federal, State and Local mandates in an effort to provide a safe and healthy environment for MS&T21 attendees during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

MS&T will require all individuals to wear face masks during MS&T 2021, regardless of an individual's vaccination status, at this time to comply with the new mask order declared by Columbus Mayor Andrew Ginther.

As COVID is primarily spread through respiratory droplets, according to the CDC and WHO, a face mask may prevent the spread of germs. Proper face covering usage includes:

- Individual(s) should wash their hands before putting on a face covering.
- Same side of the mask should be placed against the face/mouth each time to avoid wearing the "contaminated side" against the nose and mouth.
- Face covering should be removed using the straps, avoiding touching the part that protects the face.
- Reusable face masks should be worn no more than twice, and then washed or replaced with a fresh mask.

### **Touching the Face**

Attendees should avoid touching the eyes, nose and mouth.

## **Hand Sanitizers**

Touchless hand sanitizer stations at key locations will be positioned throughout the event, including, but not limited to, restrooms, food and beverage area(s), meeting rooms, and the exhibit hall. In addition, regular handwashing is encouraged. World and country health organizations recommend alcohol-based hand sanitizers to prevent the spread of infections and decrease the risk of getting sick. MS&T is committed to making hand sanitizer stations readily available throughout the event space, particularly at key locations.

## **Handwashing**

Frequent handwashing with soap and water is encouraged and will help combat the spread of any virus. Wash hands for a minimum of 20 seconds at least every 60 minutes, and dry thoroughly. As an alternative to frequent handwashing, a sanitizer containing at least 60% ethanol or 70% isopropanol can be used (according to CDC handwashing/hygiene recommendations).

## **Cough and Sneeze Etiquette**

Follow proper coughing and sneezing protocols as advised by the CDC and WHO. Individuals should use a tissue, or an elbow or shoulder if no tissue is available, followed by thorough handwashing or sanitization.

## **Symptomatic Individuals:**

MS&T participants who are subject to the “quarantine” or “isolation” guidelines on the [Centers for Disease Control](#) as refined by the [Franklin County Health Department](#), which allows a shortening of the quarantine period under specific circumstances, should not attend MS&T.

If an MS&T attendee, sponsor, vendor/supplier partner should start to display COVID-19 symptoms, they should immediately report to the MS&T First Aid Room located in Room A110 at the Greater Columbus Convention Center. The individual should be quarantined in a limited access room located within the venue (i.e. a quarantine room) or sent to a local medical facility or directly home for further examination.

## **Contact Tracing:**

If an individual returns home after attending MS&T and tests positive for COVID-19 within 14 days of attending the conference, the infected individual should contact MS&T Logistics Team Chair, Liz Green at [lgreen@ceramics.org](mailto:lgreen@ceramics.org).

MS&T will send an email to all MS&T participants to let them know that an individual at the conference tested positive for COVID-19 and that all participants should monitor themselves for the development of COVID-19 symptoms. For privacy reasons, names of individuals will not be shared. Please refer to the [Centers for Disease Control](#) or [Franklin County Health Department](#) for “quarantine” or “isolation” guidelines.

## **Cleaning and Sanitization:**

- The frequency of cleaning and disinfecting has been increased in all public spaces including an emphasis on frequent contact surfaces to be wiped and sanitized frequently throughout the MS&T

event. Cleaning staff will clean surfaces, floors, handles, toilets and sinks and stock supplies in buildings and restrooms.

- A disinfectant product from the EPA List N that is effective against COVID-19 will be used for cleaning.
- The frequency of air filter replacement and HVAC cleaning has been increased and the amount of air exchange will be maximized to increase external air flow into the Greater Columbus Convention Center and MS&T hotel partner venues.

Each of MS&T's partner venues Safety and Cleaning Protocols unique to their properties can be viewed below:

[Greater Columbus Convention Center VenueShield®](#)

[Hilton CleanStay](#)

[Hyatt's Global Care & Cleanliness Commitment](#)

[Red Roof's RediClean™ Enhanced Cleaning Protocols](#)

[Travel Clean + Safe® - Drury Hotels](#)

### **GBAC STAR™ Accreditation:**

The Global Biorisk Advisory Council's (GBAC) STAR Accreditation is the cleaning industry's only outbreak prevention, response, and recovery accreditation for facilities. Currently accredited in the city of Columbus:

- John Glenn Columbus International Airport
- Greater Columbus Convention Center
- Hyatt Regency Columbus
- Hilton Columbus Downtown (currently pursuing accreditation)

## **Section 4: Event-Specific Procedures**

MS&T will take steps in conjunction with the GCCC and local and state authorities to adhere to all CDC, state and local regulations.

### **Registration**

- All attendees will sign a waiver with registration acknowledging risk for attending the event.
- Registration will be reduced contact on-site.
  - Pre-registered attendees will scan a bar code from their confirmation.
  - A badge will be printed out.
  - An MS&T employee/temp staff will be the only individual to access the printer.
- There will be no on-site registration and no monies exchanged.
  - Attendees will have to stand off to the side and register through their mobile devices.
- Deep cleaning and sanitation of counters, computers, and customer service devices on a daily basis, including writing implements, pens and pencils.

### **Technical Session Rooms and Plenary**

- All rooms will be sanitized once per day or per GCCC recommendations.
- All chairs will be set in an "every other" arrangement in theater-style seating for the Plenary.
- Session chair tables will be provided masks, gloves and sanitizer to use as needed.
- Speakers are permitted to remove their masks while giving their presentation. Once the presentation concludes, the speaker will need to put their mask back on.

- Session chairs and speakers will have access to disinfectant wipes, hand sanitizer, gloves and microphone covers to use at their discretion.

### **First Aid Room**

- First Aid room will be centrally located in room A110.

### **Coffee Breaks**

- Multiple coffee break stations on both levels where programming is taking place will be available.

### **Society Lounges**

- Society lounges will be separated rather than all together in a line to allow more space between members.
- High touch surfaces within the society lounges will be cleaned and sanitized daily.

### **Exhibit Hall**

- [Exhibit](#) was designed with distance between booths; vertical aisles will be 10' wide.
- Hall will be sanitized once a day.
- Plexiglass is an option available to exhibitors to order through the general show contractor.
- MS&T exhibitors will be encouraged to deep clean and sanitize high touch points, including but not limited to counters, tablets, writing implements, etc.
- Café areas will be expanded to offer attendees the option to social distance during lunch.
- Sanitizing stations strategically placed around exhibit hall.

### **Banquet/Food Outlets**

- Café area will be sanitized as needed (per GCCC recommendations).
- Hand sanitizer will be available at food outlets.

### **Event Signage**

- Proper health and hygiene reminders will be posted throughout all MS&T venues including bathrooms.
- COVID-19 symptom signage will be posted throughout all MS&T venues.