



Infectious Disease Mitigation Guidelines

Effective 5/18/20 and until further notice
Applies to all in-person training and events

The below guidelines are to be followed by all participants in training activities and other MREA events.

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1. Introduction

1.1 Purpose of the Guidelines

The guidelines are meant to provide a framework to conduct in person training while ensuring the health of participants and instructors during an infectious disease pandemic. This response was formulated using guidance from the Centers for Disease Control, Wisconsin Department of Health and Human Services, and Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation.

1.2 Definitions

Cloth Face Cover

Material that covers the nose and mouth while being secured to the head with ties, straps, or simply wrapped around the lower face. (WDHS)

Common/Communal Areas

Vestibule, lobby, halls, kitchens, copy room, bathrooms, meeting rooms, education room, etc.

Infectious Disease

Infectious diseases are caused by pathogenic microorganisms, such as bacteria, viruses, parasites or fungi; the diseases can be spread, directly or indirectly, from one person to another. Zoonotic diseases are infectious diseases of animals that can cause disease when transmitted to humans. – World Health Organization

Pandemic

Pandemics happen when a new virus emerges to infect people who can spread between people sustainably. Because there is little to no pre-existing immunity against the new virus, it spreads worldwide. – Centers for Disease Control

A pandemic is a global disease outbreak. A flu pandemic occurs when a new influenza virus emerges for which people have little or no immunity, and for which there is no vaccine. The disease spreads easily person-to-person, causes serious illness, and can sweep across the country and around the world in a very short time.-OSHA

COVID-19

Coronavirus Disease 2019 is a respiratory disease caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus. - OSHA

Flu

Seasonal influenza or "flu" refers to periodic outbreaks of acute onset viral respiratory infection caused by circulating strains of human influenza A and B viruses. Seasonal "flu" is the kind of influenza with which healthcare workers and the public are most familiar. – OSHA

1.3 Resources

Wisconsin Department of Health Services

- [Recommendations for Avoiding and Preventing the Spread of COVID-19](#)
- [Symptoms of Illness](#)
- [Guidelines for Self-Quarantine](#)
- [General Travel Guidance](#)

Centers for Disease Control

- [How to Protect Yourself & Others](#)
- [How to Discontinue Home Isolation](#)

Posters

- [Important Information About Your Cloth Face Covering](#)

- [How to Safely Wear and Take Off a Cloth Face Covering](#)
- [Stop the Spread of Germs](#)
- [What You Can do if You are at Higher Risk of Severe Illness from COVID-19](#)

2. Guidelines

2.1 MREA Instructors

The MREA instructor(s) (with the help of staff) will ensure that participants have read and signed the MREA Infectious Disease Code of Ethics prior to beginning instruction. The MREA instructor will model the etiquette outlined in the code of ethics, including the use of physical distancing and cloth face coverings (when possible). To comply with the minimum six-foot physical distancing requirements the MREA and its instructors will limit the size of groups participating in lecture and lab activities based on the required activities and physical location. Understanding that it may be difficult for instructors to teach eight hours per day with a mask on, they will have the option to stand 10 ft from the first row of students while lecturing without a mask. Please use the mask in general areas, outside of class.

2.2 Students, Facilitators, and Other Participants

All persons participating in in-person training with MREA will sign the MREA Infectious Disease Code of Ethics prior to beginning class. All persons will model the etiquette outlined in the code of ethics, including the use of physical distancing and cloth face coverings. Persons who refuse to sign and or comply with the Code of Ethics will be asked to leave the training and will forfeit related registration fees.

2.3 Training Partners

Organizations that work with the MREA to provide training to their staff, members, or affiliated groups are responsible for ensuring that all participants sign and comply with the MREA Infectious Disease Code of Ethics. They will work with MREA staff and instructors to inform participants of requirements, ensure that the facility is appropriate to maintain physical distancing requirements, ensure that participants are complying with the code of ethics, remove participants that refuse to comply, and ensure that appropriate face coverings are available for participants that do not have them.

Spread Reduction Measures

In order to follow CDC recommended measures for contact tracing, MREA requests that training partners notify MREA if an employee/guest (without releasing confidential information) who has come into contact with a student has contracted an infectious disease for a minimum of two weeks after the training has completed.

3. Acknowledgement

3.1 Infectious Disease Code of Ethics

In order to reduce the spread of infectious disease as well as to respect the safety and comfort of those around me, I acknowledge that I have read the MREA Infectious Disease Mitigation Guidelines and agree to adhere to the following guidelines to the best of my ability:

Recognitions

- I will familiarize myself with CDC tactics for protecting myself and others.
- I understand that physical distancing and handwashing are critical to preventing the spread of infectious diseases such as COVID-19.

- I understand that wearing a cloth face covering is not a defense for contracting an infectious disease but an aid in helping prevent the spread of infectious disease.
- Before use of the bathroom, I understand that my best defense against spreading infectious disease is to sanitize before use.
- Before use of a shared item, I understand that my best defense against spreading infectious disease is to sanitize the item before use.
- I understand that if I demonstrate infectious disease symptoms it is my responsibility to not participate in in-person training.
- I understand that if I demonstrate symptoms of infectious disease during the training, it is my responsibility to leave.
- If anyone in my household is experiencing symptoms of an infectious disease, it is my responsibility to not participate in the in-person training.
- If I have been diagnosed or have come into contact with an individual who has been diagnosed with an infectious disease, I will wait two weeks before participating in in-person training activities, following [WDHS's guidelines for self-quarantine](#).
- If an employee, student, or guest has contracted an infectious disease and/or has been in contact with a student part of an MREA contracted training, I will notify MREA without releasing confidential information.

Etiquette

- I will practice good hand hygiene and wash my hands regularly for at least 20 seconds with soap and water or use a 60% minimum alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- I will respect and practice physical distancing guidelines which indicate to maintain six feet of separation from other people, when possible.
- I will wear a cloth face covering while in communal areas to reduce infectious disease transmission.
- I will make every attempt to cover my cough or sneeze with a tissue and throw the tissue in the trash and wash my hands after.
- If a common area is already in use by someone, if possible, I will wait for the person to exit the area (in line with physical distancing standards) before I enter.

I have reviewed the MREA's Infectious Disease Mitigation Guidelines and agree to comply to the best of my ability.

Participant Signature

Name (Please Print)

Date