

Health and Wellness at In-Person GBA Events

GBA is committed to providing members with a variety of formats for training, networking and career growth.

When permitted by national, state and local ordinances governing gatherings or meetings, GBA will schedule in-person events when we feel appropriate steps can be taken to reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19. Each event or program is evaluated on a case-by-case basis and in consultation with the appropriate GBA Board members, volunteer committees that sponsor the programming, GBA staff and the venue hosting a program.

When possible, we'll use technology such as live streaming to provide virtual access to in-person programming as an option, and sometimes we'll decide in favor of virtual-only programming. And, we always monitor conditions daily as an event nears in the event we need to change course to protect members.

Here are some details about our general practices for hosting in-person events.

Overall Approach

- GBA adheres to the current state and national guidelines and restrictions governing gatherings and meetings. If and when regulations change, we will adjust accordingly.
- GBA is a partner organization in Gov. Kemp's Georgia Safety Promise, which encourages Georgians to stay six feet apart, wear face coverings when maintaining social distancing is difficult, wash hands frequently and sanitize surfaces frequently.
- GBA staff will monitor their health daily and will not participate if there's reason to believe they've been exposed or infected.
- Per CDC guidelines, staff or members should not attend if they have tested positive for COVID-19, are showing COVID-19 [symptoms](#), or if they have had a [close contact](#) with a person who has symptoms of COVID-19 within the past 14 days.

Venue Protocols

- GBA staff reviews and verifies each venue's adherence to appropriate regulations and best practices for sanitation, food service and other guest protections.
- Meeting space and seating will be set up to provide the required social distancing.
- We will limit attendance if necessary to ensure the appropriate capacity is not exceeded.
- Hand sanitizer will be readily available throughout the venue and meeting rooms.

Face Coverings

- GBA staff and guests are required wear face coverings for the duration of the event in meeting rooms when not eating or drinking. **Please consider it a shared responsibility by all** to ensure a healthy environment for all of our members and guests.
- Most hotel and meeting venues now require face coverings in public spaces and most consider meeting rooms as spaces covered by their facility policies.
- We recommend attendees bring their own face coverings; however, we will provide a mask upon request.

Food and Refreshment Service

- Our approach is to ensure appropriate social distancing and to limit contact points.

- Food may be provided in a variety of ways such as individually plated meals or buffets with appropriate protections and served by venue staff wearing PPE, boxed grab-and-go meals or pre-wrapped portions, depending on the event and venue policies.
- Seating for meals will be set up to provide the required social distancing.
- Hand sanitizer will be available at any point where guests are able to serve themselves. Hand sanitizer should be used before getting or refilling coffee during breaks, selecting any pre-wrapped items or reaching into a drink cooler.

Contactless Registration and Materials

- We will arrange for contactless registration/check-in for the event with self-serve name tag pickup.
- We will provide electronic access to necessary documents such as presentations, handouts, agendas and registration lists so you can pre-print them or access them electronically during programs.
- To limit contact points, GBA will not provide notepads or pens at events. Attendees are encouraged to bring their own.

Social & Networking Activities

- Receptions and other social activities will be curtailed or cancelled when we cannot ensure appropriate social distancing.
- Please make responsible choices about social distancing and face coverings when networking out of respect for your fellow attendees, their families and those not attending GBA events they'll come in contact with when they return home.

What you'll experience at each venue and each program will vary. We'll communicate any specifics necessary for a particular event through a variety of channels, so look for those details along with other information about each particular event.

It's our hope that this information and the steps we're taking demonstrate our commitment to minimizing the risks of attending an in-person meeting, and our priority on your health and wellbeing.

We appreciate your ongoing trust in, and support of, GBA as a resource.

If you have any questions, please contact the GBA staff member lead for the event or David Oliver, senior vice president, Member Solutions, doliver@gabankers.com, 404.420.2036.

Resource Links

- [Georgia Executive Orders](#)
- [CDC Considerations for Meetings and Events](#)
- [Georgia Safety Promise](#)

Warning for in-person events

Any person entering the premises waives all civil liability against this premises owner and operator for any injuries caused by the inherent risk associated with contracting COVID-19 at public gatherings, except for gross negligence, willful and wanton misconduct, reckless infliction of harm, or intentional infliction of harm, by the individual or entity of the premises. O.C.G.A. § 51-16-4.

In-person events are held at a third-party site for which GBA has no control, and GBA cannot be held responsible for the sanitary practices of the venue. Attendees assume the risk of infection to the maximum extent permitted under Georgia law.