



## 2021 Annual Business Meeting (ABM) Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

### **Please note:**

The Commission is planning for an in-person conference this year, with a virtual option for state compact commissioners who are unable to travel. In coordination with the Little Rock conference facilities, we will continue to monitor safety protocols and recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and World Health Organization (WHO).

However, should public health guidelines change and prohibit in-person gatherings, the Commission may offer a virtual-only meeting and provide registration refunds upon request. Please use care when booking travel arrangements; **the Commission is not responsible for airfare or other travel reimbursements should public health guidelines require cancellation of the in-person conference.**

The Commission makes every effort keep this document updated, but guidance and state mandates are constantly changing. Please visit the [Arkansas Department of Health](#), [WHO COVID-19](#), and [CDC COVID-19 Travelers](#) websites for the latest information and guidance.

### **General Questions**

#### **1. Do I have to register to attend the 2021 ABM?**

Yes, persons interested in attending the ABM:

- **in-person** must register by Thursday, September 30, 2021.
- **virtually** must register by to Sunday, October 31, 2021.

Once registered, you will receive a confirmation email.

#### **2. How do I register for the 2021 ABM?**

There are two ways for attendees to register for the ABM. First, you can register on the mic3.net site and click on the 2021 Annual Business Meeting tab at the top of the homepage. On the Annual Business Meeting tab click on the "Register Now" button.

Second, if you attended last year's ABM you will have received an email from Constant Contact with a link inviting you to register for this year's meeting.

#### **3. Will there be a charge to attend the virtual ABM?**

No, the Commission has waived the registration fee for individuals attending the 2021 ABM virtually.

#### **4. Will virtual attendees receive a hard copy of the docket book?**

No, virtual attendees may view the digital copy of the docket book on the website.

#### **5. Will individuals registering to attend in-person after September 30, 2021, receive a hard copy of the docket book?**

No, registrations received after Thursday, September 30, 2021, may view the digital version of the docket book.

**6. How will I know I am looking at the correct page in the docket book during the general session?**

The slides used during the general session will reference the corresponding page in the docket book.

**7. As the Commissioner, if I cannot attend in-person or virtually, will I be allowed to designate a proxy to attend in my place?**

Yes, as in previous years, Commissioners who are unable to attend the ABM will be allowed to designate a proxy by completing a designation form. This approval allows the proxy to attend and vote on Commission business as a representative for that member state. The [Delegation of Authority](#) form must be submitted to the National Office prior to the ABM.

**ABM Questions – Attending In-person**

**1. What should I be aware of traveling to the ABM?**

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) [Guidance on Large Gatherings](#), travel may increase your chance of spreading and getting COVID-19, CDC recommends delaying travel until you are able to get fully vaccinated.

MIC3 is not requiring that attendees be vaccinated. Therefore, attendees who are not fully vaccinated are highly encouraged to attend virtually. If you [travel](#), you should still take steps to [protect yourself and others](#). The CDC still [requires passengers to wear a mask on public transportation](#). If you are considering traveling for a large gathering, visit CDC's [Travel](#) page to help you decide what is best for you.

**2. Will in-person attendees be required to wear a mask throughout the ABM?**

According to CDC guidelines, [if you are fully vaccinated](#), you can resume activities that you did before the pandemic. Fully vaccinated people can resume activities without wearing a mask or physically distancing, except where required by federal, state, local, tribal, or territorial laws, rules, and regulations, including local business and workplace guidance. Currently, the State of Arkansas, the City of Little Rock, and the Little Rock Marriott do not have face covering requirements in place.

If you have not been fully vaccinated, you must wear a mask while in the meeting venue.

**3. I am fully vaccinated but would be more comfortable wearing a mask while attending the ABM, may I do so?**

Yes, ABM attendees that are fully vaccinated may wear a mask.

**4. Will social distancing be practiced throughout the ABM?**

According to [CDC guidance on social distancing](#), you are more likely to get or spread COVID-19 when you are in close contact with people who do not live with you. Remember that people without symptoms or with a recent negative test result can still spread COVID-19 to others. Therefore, we encourage all attendees to follow the CDC's social distancing guidelines and protocols.

During the General Session, Commissioners will be seated 3 ft. apart. Tabletop microphones will not be shared as had been the practice at previous ABMs. Room capacity will be determined by the host city's guidance at the time of the meeting. As of

May 31, 2021, meeting room capacity in Little Rock is restricted to 66% of the overall capacity.

**5. Has the Little Rock Marriott tested or improved the hotel's HVAC system to meet CDC guidance?**

The Little Rock Marriott engineering staff has verified the hotel's ventilation has a Minimum Efficiency Reporting Value (MERV) of 8 out of a possible 16. The higher the MERV rating the better the filter is at trapping specific types of particles.

The CDC based some of the guidance issued during the pandemic on the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating, and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) [Guidance for Building Operations During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#). Based on information issued by the World Health Organization (WHO) regarding the spread of the SARS-CoV-2 or COVID-19 virus, the ASHRAE Journal stated "...basic principles of social distancing (1 to 2 m or 3 to 6.5 ft), surface cleaning and disinfection, handwashing and other strategies of good hygiene are far more important than anything related to the HVAC system."

**6. Will in-person attendees be required to be vaccinated or provide proof of vaccination?**

No, proof of vaccination will not be requested, however individuals who are not vaccinated or fully vaccinated must wear a mask. The CDC encourages individuals to receive the [COVID-19 vaccination](#) before traveling or participating in large gatherings or meetings where they may come in close contact with other individuals.

**7. If I am attending the ABM in-person, what documentation will I be required to submit to the Commission?**

During the registration process, each attendee will be asked to sign a waiver of liability and provide emergency contact information. The [Attendee Liability Waiver and Assumption of Risk Statement](#) is provided below.

**ATTENDEE LIABILITY WAIVER AND ASSUMPTION OF RISK STATEMENT**

*Attendee assumes all risks and accepts sole responsibility for any injury (including, but not limited to, personal injury, disability, and death), illness, damage, loss, claim, liability, or expense, of any kind, that attendee may experience or incur in connection with attending the ABM. Attendee hereby releases, covenants not to sue, discharges, and holds harmless the Commission, its employees, agents, and representatives, of and from any such claims, including all liabilities, claims, actions, damages, costs, or expenses of any kind arising out of or relating thereto.*

*Specifically relating to the global COVID-19 pandemic, attendee acknowledges the highly contagious nature of COVID-19 and voluntarily assumes the risk of exposure or infection by attending the ABM, and that such exposure or infection may result in personal injury, illness, disability, and/or death to attendee. Attendee understands that the risk of becoming exposed to or infected by COVID-19 at the ABM may result from the actions, omissions, or negligence of others who may attend the event or their families, colleagues, or others with whom they may have contact. Accordingly, attendee understands and agrees that this release includes any claims based on the actions, omissions, or negligence of the Commission, its employees, agents, and*

*representatives, whether a COVID-19 infection occurs before, during, or after participation in the ABM.*

*In addition to all other rules and regulations relating to the attendee's attendance at the ABM, attendee agrees to comply with all COVID-related procedures that may be implemented by the Commission and Little Rock Marriott, including, but not limited to, mask-wearing and social distancing requirements and restrictions on certain activities that carry higher COVID-related risk, in order to protect as much as possible, the health and safety of all ABM attendees.*

**8. Will the Commission host an evening reception during the 2021 ABM?**

Yes, an evening reception is planned. However, social distancing cannot be ensured at an event where attendees are eating, drinking, and mingling. Attendance at the reception is not mandatory so attendees will have to determine their personal level of comfort with attending a gathering that may not allow you to social distance.

According to the Little Rock Marriott's guidance, nonvaccinated or fully vaccinated attendees at the reception should wear their masks while they are moving about the reception area. However, if you are seated, standing, or at a hi-boy table with food or beverage, you are welcome to remove your mask.

**9. How is the hotel accommodating guest and conference attendees?**

The Marriott Little Rock is currently providing hand sanitizer, both personal and stations, masks, and sanitizing wipes. The hotel anticipates continuing this service until the end of the calendar year.

**10. Will the Meeting rooms be sanitized and how often?**

Arkansas does not require hotels to sanitize meeting rooms between meetings. All meeting rooms and conference areas will be cleaned at the conclusion of each day. Sanitizing wipes will be provided to attendees so they may wipe down any surfaces they encounter during the ABM.

**ABM Questions – Attending Virtually**

**1. How does a Commissioner, attending virtually, indicate they would like to speak on a topic?**

Commissioners, designees, or state proxies may indicate they wish to speak on an agenda topic by utilizing the "Chat" features on the virtual platform. Commissioners, designees, or state proxies should enter their name and/or state to indicated they wish to speak on the item currently being discussed by the Commission.

**2. How will a Commissioner who has indicated they would like to speak be recognized?**

Staff will notify the Chair that a Commissioner has indicated they wish to speak on the current agenda topic, and the Chair will recognize the speaker by name to indicate they have the floor.

**3. Will Commissioners be limited on how long they can speak on a topic?**

There will be no limit on how long a Commissioner, designee, or state proxy may speak. However, to respect the time required to accomplish the Commission's business and

agenda, comments may be limited should the need arise in order to complete items on the agenda.

**4. How will voting on agenda items be done?**

Items on the agenda requiring a simple majority vote, i.e., adoption of the agenda, approval of the 2020 ABM minutes, FY2023 annual budget, consent calendar items and adjournment, will be handled by a voice vote as they have been at previous in-person ABMs.

Items on the agenda requiring a roll call vote, i.e., establishing a quorum, will be done by the Commission secretary calling the Commission roll and the representative from each member state indicating with *yes*, *yea* or *aye* signaling the representative is in favor of the motion and *no* or *nay* signaling opposition to the motion.

**5. How will the leadership election process (voting) be conducted at the 2021 ABM?**

In the interest of transparency, the Leadership Nominations Committee (LNC) has determined that as a quasi-governmental, publicly funded entity, whose meetings are open to the public, voting for Commission leadership positions will be held by roll call vote.