



Protocols for In-Person Attendance at NEPOOL Meetings During the Covid-19 Pandemic

These protocols for return to in-person NEPOOL meetings are effective as of the date above and may be modified from time to time as guidelines from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (“CDC”), applicable state or local requirements, or circumstances change.

Background

The Protocols provided herein outline recommended and preventative measures to reduce the COVID-related risks associated with attendance in person at NEPOOL meetings.¹ Measures include safety precautions individuals must take while at in-person meetings. In-person attendance will follow and adhere to the latest CDC guidelines (as well as any additional, applicable state or local requirements that may be in place). As with any in-person meeting, there will be COVID-related risks associated with in-person attendance. **Each in-person attendee should perform their own risk/benefit calculus in deciding whether to participate in-person or remotely.**

Safety Precautions

Proof of Full Vaccination Required. To attend a NEPOOL meeting in person, each attendee must be fully vaccinated.² Proof of vaccination (e.g., a copy of a completed COVID-19 Vaccination Record/Card) must be provided to NEPOOL counsel (pmgerity@daypitney.com) in advance of the meeting.³ An attendee who is unable to provide a copy of a completed COVID-19 Vaccination Record may sign and provide a COVID-19 Vaccination Status Attestation as an alternate form of proof. All such records will be maintained by NEPOOL Counsel in a confidential file. Those who are not vaccinated, or who have not timely provided proof of vaccination, will not be permitted in the meeting room and will be encouraged to participate by teleconference/WebEx. An individual’s ability to attend a meeting in person will be restored following proof of vaccination.

¹ NEPOOL meetings, while not public, are open to all NEPOOL Participants, their authorized representatives and, except as otherwise limited for discussions in executive session, consumer advocates that are not members, federal and state officials and guests whose attendance has been cleared with the Committee Chair. All those in attendance or participating, either in person or by phone, are required to identify themselves and their affiliation at the meeting.

² A person is considered fully vaccinated: (i) 2 weeks after their second dose in a 2-dose series, such as the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines, or (ii) 2 weeks after a single-dose vaccine, such as Johnson & Johnson’s Janssen vaccine. If you don’t meet either of these criteria, regardless of age, you are NOT fully vaccinated.

³ Proof of vaccination of ISO employees or representatives, as a condition of their in-person attendance, will be confidentially (i) collected and maintained by the ISO and (ii) verified by an ISO committee officer with NEPOOL counsel in advance of attendance at a meeting.

Registration Required; Contact Tracing. Registration for in-person attendance will be required and the Committee Secretary will keep a separate record of all individuals in attendance in person for the purpose of later contact tracing. Specific contact tracing information is confidential and NEPOOL will not use this information for any other reason. Contact tracing information will be kept for 28 days and destroyed thereafter.

Attendance In-Person Not Permitted if Experiencing Covid-19 Indicative Symptoms. Individuals should not attend an in-person meeting if they are experiencing new or worsening symptoms of any of the following in the last 14 days:

- Fever of 100.4 °F (38.0 °C) or higher
- Chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New Loss of Taste or Smell
- Sore Throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

Attendance In-Person Not Permitted if Recent Exposure to Covid-19-Positive Individual. Individuals should not attend in-person meetings if they have had a likely exposure to a COVID-19 positive individual in the last 14 days.

Physical Distancing. The opportunity for physical distancing at meeting tables will be provided where and as possible, but will not be enforced. Attendees are encouraged, whenever otherwise possible, to separate themselves by 6 feet of distance. Seating at round tables should be limited to six or fewer.

Masks. If and as required by CDC guidelines or by the requirements of the state or locale in which the meeting is taking place, face coverings (“masks”) shall be worn. Where physical distancing cannot be maintained, it is recommended that attendees wear masks whenever they are not seated, including while in transit to or from their seat and while standing in lines or in the room.

Sanitizing. Hand sanitizer and wipes will be made available at each meeting. Additional arrangements will be implemented to facilitate sanitation measures. (e.g. All microphones will be positioned and sanitized prior to arrival. Microphones will also be sanitized at lunch and at the end of the day. Alcohol sanitizing wipes will be available for attendees to utilize during the meeting to sanitize the microphones between users.)

Reporting and Communicating a Positive COVID-19 Result

In the event of a COVID-19-positive test result, an individual that attended an in-person meeting within 14 days of that result should immediately contact NEPOOL Counsel (pmgerity@daypitney.com) to report their COVID-19 status. NEPOOL Counsel will maintain the individual's privacy while notifying those that attended the meeting in person of the positive test result. Please be advised that all health information is private and strictly confidential and will only be shared on a need-to-know basis to confirm and trace any contact with the positive tester at a NEPOOL in-person meeting and contact those who may have been exposed. Any notice of a COVID-19-positive test result will be kept for 28 days and destroyed thereafter.

Remote Participation

For those individuals who are otherwise authorized to attend a NEPOOL meeting, but choose not to, or because of safety measures are unable to, attend meetings in person, remote participation (i.e. by teleconference and/or by WebEx) will continue to be made available.