



It has been a year since everyone went into lockdown, more people are getting vaccinated, and things are beginning to open up. We wanted to send you an update on what we see being discussed within the events and travel industries. We hope this will be helpful as you begin to navigate back into the office and begin planning in-person and hybrid events.

Business Travel

Let's start with Business Travel, an area intricately linked to in-person and hybrid meetings. We look to the business travel industry to help forecast the future of travel. Many of our partners work with businesses whose employees work in high-risk situations where they are already mandated to do frequent Covid testing. Their process can help us codify what we feel will be normal health protocols for hybrid and in-person events. Most of them feel that the two critical items will be proof of vaccine (plus any boosters for variants), and proof of negative test. Faster, cheaper tests continue to be developed.

Health Passport

Most of our partners agree there will be digital health passports on your smart phone that will show your immunization status. There will also be software that will help you track what kind of boosters or inoculations will be required for travel to specific destinations. This will help you determine what you need to be able to prove when you get there, and where you can get tested before and after you arrive, and before you return home. The main issue is lack of standardization in domestic and international regulations. It will also be important that your corporate travel coordinator is able to access real time data regarding any Covid outbreaks at hotels and on airlines, as well as to be able to contact trace if necessary.

Software along these lines that have already launched are: [iTravel pass](#), [CommonPass](#) and [AOK Pass](#). It is important that your company's IT and compliance department sign-off before these apps can be downloaded on corporate phones.

Testing Prior to Travel

EEOC has published guidance on employer-mandated COVID-19 vaccination policies for the US companies. There are also third-party vendors who can test employees onsite and can provide staff that can check temperatures at all access points at events. These companies can also help your company set up systems to individualize testing, based on how many days individuals will be onsite and advise what to do if anyone tests positive away from home. Hotels and airlines have also begun establishing testing sites. It is important before you



get tested to understand who the owner of your data is and with whom they can share that data.

They recommend setting up a process for testing (e.g. how many tests your company will pay for), insurance and reimbursement for out-of-pocket costs.

Planning Ahead

It's an exciting time to start thinking about how to safely re-engage with clients, potential partners and customers, while keeping their safety and your own safety paramount. Let us know if you need help as you begin to navigate this next phase.

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