



Essential Considerations for Safely Operating Glass Problems Conference GPC 2021

November 1 – 4, 2021

Greater Columbus Convention Center

Section 1: Description of GMIC

The Glass Manufacturing Industry Council (GMIC) is a trade association founded and funded by the glass industry to create opportunities to advance competitiveness and profitability across all manufacturing segments. GMIC includes among its members, representatives of container, fiber, flat, and specialty glass companies, as well as leading suppliers to the industry, research institutes, and industry experts. GMIC provides beneficial services to companies, including enhancing companies' business development and technical development, providing technical education, coordinating technical initiatives, providing industry intelligence, workforce development, and promoting the usage and image of glass products.

GMIC presents the annual Glass Problems Conference bringing together glass manufacturers and suppliers.

Section 2: Overview of COVID Guidelines

GMIC with the Greater Columbus Convention Center (GCCC), event contractors, decorators and other service providers, has written these *Essential Considerations for Safely Operating GPC 2021* to provide information for producing GPC 2021 during the COVID pandemic.

These considerations were written to not be prescriptive, but rather to provide general information and areas for special attention. Each exhibition or event is different. The audience, size, industry, complexity, venue and city must be taken into consideration when planning for the exhibition. GMIC will understand the current laws of the country, state/province and city in which its event is being held, working with local officials to ensure the event is in compliance. Regularly reviewing the guidance of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the World Health Organization (WHO) is strongly advised.

GMIC is committed to keeping its members, attendees and exhibitors updated as new information is made available from our conference partners complying with guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and relevant state and local authorities in an effort to provide a safe and healthy environment for GPC 2021 attendees during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Section 3: General Principles for Health and Safety Operations

The implementation of reasonable and practical health and safety measures is the best way to protect the environment surrounding our event. We will encourage all attendees to be mindful of these basic principles and practice them in their daily routines. In addition, this document contains no best practices; however, the General Principles should be the cornerstone of producing a successful event in this COVID environment.

COVID-19 Vaccination

The CDC believes that the COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective. They highly recommend everyone 12 years of age and older get vaccinated. GMIC is not requiring individuals to be vaccinated in order to register and participate in GPC 2021 in person.

All GPC 2021 should consider:

Physical Distancing

The GMIC planning team is working to build the GPC 2021 program where social distancing is encouraged.

- Socially distanced room sets
- Multiple coffee break stations

Transmission of COVID may be mitigated through physical distancing protocols. State and local health guidelines stress, whenever possible, that all persons not vaccinated should leave at least *6 feet* (*approximately 2 m*) of empty space to the person closest to them.

Face Masks and Face Coverings

On September 8th, 2021, Columbus Mayor Andrew Ginther announced a mask order to require masks for all publicly accessible indoor spaces in Columbus, regardless of an individual's vaccination status. The mandate was included in an executive order signed by Mayor Andrew Ginther and went into effect on Friday, September 10th, 2021.

GMIC, working in partnership with the GMIC21 venues, is complying with all Federal, State and Local mandates in an effort to provide a safe and healthy environment for GPC 2021 attendees during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

GMIC will require all individuals to wear face masks during GPC 2021, regardless of an individual's vaccination status, at this time to comply with the new mask order declared by Columbus Mayor Andrew Ginther.

As COVID is primarily spread through respiratory droplets, according to the CDC and WHO, a face mask may prevent the spread of germs. Proper face covering usage includes:

- Individual(s) should wash their hands before putting on a face covering.
- Same side of the mask should be placed against the face/mouth each time to avoid wearing the "contaminated side" against the nose and mouth.
- Face covering should be removed using the straps, avoiding touching the part that protects the face.
- Reusable face masks should be worn no more than twice, and then washed or replaced with a fresh mask.

Touching the Face

Attendees should avoid touching the eyes, nose and mouth.

Hand Sanitizers

Touchless hand sanitizer stations at key locations will be positioned throughout the event, including, but not limited to, restrooms, food and beverage area(s), meeting rooms, and the exhibit hall. In addition, regular handwashing is encouraged. World and country health organizations recommend alcohol-based hand sanitizers to prevent the spread of infections and decrease the risk of getting sick. GMIC is committed to making hand sanitizer stations readily available throughout the event space, particularly at key locations.

Handwashing

Frequent handwashing with soap and water is encouraged and will help combat the spread of any virus. Wash hands for a minimum of 20 seconds at least every 60 minutes, and dry thoroughly. As an alternative to frequent handwashing, a sanitizer containing at least 60% ethanol or 70% isopropanol can be used (according to CDC handwashing/hygiene recommendations).

Cough and Sneeze Etiquette

Follow proper coughing and sneezing protocols as advised by the CDC and WHO. Individuals should use a tissue, or an elbow or shoulder if no tissue is available, followed by thorough handwashing or sanitization.

Symptomatic Individuals:

If an individual is displaying symptoms of acute respiratory illness or becomes sick before arriving to the event, they should not enter GPC 2021 until medically cleared to do so or upon completing a 10-day quarantine.

If prior to attending GPC 2021, an individual has been in contact with someone with confirmed or suspected COVID-19 symptoms without completing a 14-day quarantine or being fully vaccinated or are under any self-quarantine directives, they should not enter GPC 2021.

If a GPC attendee, sponsor, vendor/supplier partner should immediately leave GPC 2021.

Contact Tracing:

If an individual returns home after attending GPC 2021 and tests positive for COVID-19 within 14 days of attending the conference, the infected individual should contact GPC event planner, Liz Green at lgreen@ceramics.org.

GMIC will send an email to all GPC 2021 participants to let them know that an individual at the conference tested positive for COVID-19 and that all participants should monitor themselves for the development of COVID-19 symptoms. For privacy reasons, names of individuals will not be shared.

According to the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#), individuals should quarantine if they have been in close contact (within 6 feet of someone for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period) with someone who has COVID-19, unless the individual is fully vaccinated.

People who are fully vaccinated do NOT need to quarantine after contact with someone who had COVID-19 unless they have COVID-19 symptoms. However, fully vaccinated people should get tested 3-5 days after their exposure, even if they don't have symptoms and wear a mask indoors in public for 14 days following exposure or until their test result is negative.

Cleaning and Sanitization:

- The frequency of cleaning and disinfecting has been increased in all public spaces including an emphasis on frequent contact surfaces to be wiped and sanitized frequently throughout the GPC

2021 event. Cleaning staff will clean surfaces, floors, handles, toilets and sinks and stock supplies in buildings and restrooms.

- A disinfectant product from the EPA List N that is effective against COVID-19 will be used for cleaning.
- The frequency of air filter replacement and HVAC cleaning has been increased and the amount of air exchange will be maximized to increase external air flow into the Greater Columbus Convention Center and GMIC hotel partner venues.

Each of GMIC's partner venues Safety and Cleaning Protocols unique to their properties can be viewed below:

[Greater Columbus Convention Center VenueShield®](#)

[Hilton CleanStay](#)

GBAC STAR™ Accreditation:

The Global Biorisk Advisory Council's (GBAC) STAR Accreditation is the cleaning industry's only outbreak prevention, response, and recovery accreditation for facilities. Currently accredited in the city of Columbus:

- John Glenn Columbus International Airport
- Greater Columbus Convention Center
- Hilton Columbus Downtown (in process)

Section 4: Event-Specific Procedures

GMIC will take steps in conjunction with the GCCC and local and state authorities to adhere to all CDC, state and local regulations.

Registration

- All attendees will sign a waiver with registration acknowledging risk for attending the event.
- Registration will be reduced contact on-site.
 - Pre-registered attendees will scan a bar code from their confirmation.
 - A badge will be printed out.
 - A GMIC staff will be the only individual to access the printer.
- Deep cleaning and sanitation of counters, computers, and customer service devices on a daily basis, including writing implements, pens and pencils.

Technical Session Room

- All rooms will be cleaned/sanitized overnight per GCCC recommendations.
- All chairs will be set in an "every other" arrangement in theater-style seating for the Plenary.
- Speakers are permitted to remove their masks while giving their presentation. Once the presentation concludes, the speaker will need to put their mask back on.
- Session chairs and speakers will have access to disinfectant wipes, hand sanitizer, gloves and microphone covers to use at their discretion.

Coffee Breaks

- Multiple coffee break stations in the GPC daytime exhibit hall will be offered to avoid crowding at 1 station

Exhibit Hall

- GPC exhibitors will be encouraged to deep clean and sanitize high touch points, including but not limited to counters, tablets, writing implements, etc.
- Sanitizing stations strategically placed around exhibit hall.

Event Signage

- Proper health and hygiene reminders will be posted throughout all GPC 2021 venues including bathrooms.
- COVID-19 symptom signage will be posted throughout all GPC 2021 venues.