

HARAMBEE 2024 COVID POLICY:

ABFE is excited to host its 2024 Annual Conference; “: Lest We Forget”; as an in-person event in St. Louis, MO (the “Event”).

As we continue to plan for the conference, ABFE is monitoring COVID-19 guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Government of Missouri as well as other relevant public health authorities and will implement the specific COVID-19 health and safety protocols required by applicable law and appropriate to the public health circumstances existing at the time of the conference. We are committed to keeping our community appropriately informed on the precautions we are setting for the conference as it relates to COVID-19 and will remain diligent in taking appropriate steps designed to promote the health and safety of our conference participants, speakers, vendors and ABFE staff. We are doing all that we can to reduce the risk of exposure to the COVID-19 virus during the Event, and we ask all conference guests to do the same.

Please carefully review the **required** COVID-19 precautions and protocols that are designed to keep all Harambee guests, participants, and attendees as safe and healthy as possible. These protocols will be strictly enforced, and your failure or refusal to comply will bar your participation from the Event – with no right to a refund of any kind.

Here’s What ABFE is Doing to Keep Conference Guests Safe and Healthy:

ABFE will institute the following health and safety protocols to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission and illness at our in-person annual conference.

- Registrants and Guests are required to present proof of an administered, negative PCR test (though a rapid test may be deemed acceptable, given changes in certain health and safety guidelines), that must be uploaded to the file folder in the **WHOVA APP** 48-hours before attending the Event. Testing conditions are subject to change based upon national, state, and local health and wellness guidelines.
- ABFE will provide face masks and COVID-19 self-tests for all guests, upon request and while limited supplies last. Attendees are also encouraged to bring their own masks. To review the state of NC’s Dept. of Health and Human Service’s guidance on wearing a mask to prevent the spread of COVID-19, click here: <https://covid19.ncdhhs.gov/information/individuals-families-and-communities/mask-guidance>.
- ABFE will modify room layouts for Event sessions to promote physical distancing, when possible.
- Coordinate with the host venue, to ensure all Event meeting rooms are sanitized before and after breakout and general sessions.
- ABFE will monitor, implement, and enforce appropriate COVID-19 guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the State of Missouri, and other relevant public health authorities.

Here's What You Must Do to Keep Fellow Conference Attendees Safe and Healthy:

- Present proof of a negative COVID-19 test that must be uploaded to the file folder in the **WHOVA APP** 48-hours before attending the Event (testing conditions subject to change based upon national, state, and local health and wellness guidelines).
- a face mask indoors, except when eating or drinking.
- Contact ABFE immediately if you experience any signs or symptoms of COVID-19 virus within 14 days after the Event.
- Comply with ABFE's COVID-19 health and safety protocols and any applicable CDC, the State of Missouri COVID-19 mandates and guidelines.

As the CDC has determined that vaccination and booster shots are the best way to prevent the spread of COVID-19, guests are encouraged to do so. Health and safety situations are still evolving, and we will share updates on our policy, should they arise. If you are unable to join us at our convening in-person, please know that you are welcome to register for Harambee Hybrid (a limited, virtual space designed to connect our village virtually).

When registering for the Event, attendees and participants agree that they will knowingly and voluntarily:

- Assume any risks and dangers associated with possible exposure to, or illness from Covid-19 virus (and variants) while attending or participating in the Event.
- Waive any and all liability, claims, and demands of whatever kind or nature against ABFE and all affiliated staff, employees, representatives, directors, partners, vendors and sponsors.
- Comply with ABFE's COVID-19 related policies.
- To the fullest extent permissible by law or in equity, waive and discharge any and all liability, claims, and demands of whatever kind or nature against ABFE and its affiliated partners, vendors and sponsors, including without limitation, their directors, officers, employees, volunteers, and agents, including but not limited to illness, bodily injury, or other economic loss, which arise or may hereafter arise from my attendance or participation with the Event.

While ABFE will strive to safeguard the health and safety of all those involved in the Event and will make every reasonable effort to mitigate possible exposure to COVID-19 and its variants during Event activities, ABFE cannot guarantee that attendees and participants in the event will not be exposed to or become sick from exposure to COVID-19 variants. Please contact ABFE immediately at info@abfe.org or (646) 392-9877 if you experience any signs and symptoms of COVID-19 during or within 14 days after the Event.

Failure to comply with the COVID-19 related policies bars your admission to the Event and all scheduled meetings – with no right to a refund of any kind – and may deny admission to future conferences.

Exemptions:

ABFE will waive vaccination requirements (where applicable) for religious or medical reasons, provided that you request and complete the online waiver form that must be completed before April 1, 2024. Individuals granted a waiver must provide proof of negative antigen COVID-19 test results within 24 hours of check-in.