



May 27, 2022

Dear Friends,

Recently you received some information regarding conference preparation that was sent in haste and without full consultation. After consultation among the conference organizers, Accessibility Committee, Executive Committee, and members of the Board, we have revisited our health & safety protocols for the conference next week. I apologize for failing to be more collaborative or transparent. We are all learning, still, how to respond to the changing health situation of an ever-shifting pandemic, but openness and accessibility demand that we do so in collaboration.

As we prepare to gather in Atlanta for our first in-person conference in over 2 years, ChLA has opted to **require masks at all conference events**. Masks will be required at all times other than when presenting or eating. Hand sanitizer stations will be readily available in the public areas as well as at the ChLA Registration Desk, along with extra masks should anyone require them. Those with medical conditions that preclude masking should contact us (info@childlitassn.org) for an exemption.

In addition, stickers will be available to attach to conference attendee badges to indicate physical distancing comfort levels (green means hugs are okay, yellow means elbow bumps, red means no contact).

With cases once again on the rise and attendee well-being as our primary concern, especially the protection of those who cannot be vaccinated and who live with young children, we appreciate everyone's respect and cooperation in ensuring the safety of your fellow attendees. As an organization that celebrates the stories and culture of childhood, we cannot help but be aware of the ways that children, among other vulnerable populations, have been devalued, and we are committed to doing what we can to protect and care for each other and our most vulnerable as we prepare to meet in Atlanta.

We look forward to seeing everyone again in person next week, and hope that these protocols will provide some measure of protection for the most vulnerable among us. Please direct any questions or concerns to me.

Warmly,

Libby Gruner
ChLA President, 2021-2022
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