

Dear EEID community,

We are so excited to host the EEID 2022 meeting at Emory University! This will be the first EEID meeting in a fully hybrid format, and the first EEID meeting to have an in-person component during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Although EEID 2022 will have in-person workshops, talks and poster presentations, the pandemic has resulted in new realities and restrictions, which means the meeting will be somewhat different from previous in-person meetings. I wanted to use this letter to outline some of these changes, so you know what to expect.

First, as you know, we are requiring all participants to be fully vaccinated and to wear masks during the meeting – including during oral and poster presentations. Our meeting will be held in the Student Center, in the heart of campus. Drinks and meals will be provided in the adjacent dining hall, where participants can maintain social distancing while enjoying refreshments, breakfasts, lunches and dinners. It is also possible to take meals outside.

Second, because of space restrictions, increased in-person attendance, Covid regulations, and our decision to increase accessibility by keeping registration and housing costs to a minimum, we have had to cancel the banquet. Daily dinners will be provided in the dining hall, and we will provide a list of suggested restaurants, pubs and breweries in walking and Uber distance for attendees who would like to wine and dine off-campus.

Third, because of Covid restrictions, use of the undergraduate student center, and a focus on equity and inclusion, we will not serve alcoholic beverages during the in-person poster sessions. Non-alcoholic refreshments will be available in the dining hall during these sessions.

Fourth, we will require the use of masks on the buses to and from the different locations for the hikes. As all hikes are outside, masks are not required during the actual hikes.

We are looking forward to seeing you in-person or online very soon!

On behalf of the organizing committee,

Jaap de Roode