



Dear ISMS 18 participant,

All of us at the Street Medicine Institute (SMI) and Inner City Health Associates (ICHA) are thrilled to see every one of you in person - for the first time in 3 years - in Toronto at ISMS 18! Your health and safety, as well as the health and safety of other participants, your loved ones, and our sisters and brothers on the streets from your community, are important to us. The ISMS 18 committee, comprised of SMI and ICHA planners, has taken a very mindful approach to decision-making about masking at ISMS 18, considering the international dynamics of COVID, the high vaccination rate (90%) among people living in Toronto as well as vaccination requirements to enter Canada, the variety of guidance across jurisdictions, and scientific evidence for optimal safety.

While public health guidance from the Chief Medical Officer of Health in Ontario has removed all masking requirements in public spaces, the ISMS 18 planning committee and organizational leaders continue to strongly encourage all participants to wear masks indoors while at the symposium. Further, we commit to and recommend the following actions to promote COVID safety:

- All conference planners and organizational leaders will wear masks indoors at the symposium and encourage others to be diligent.
- A variety of masks (surgical, KN95, and N95) will be available at registration for those who require additional masks. For people at elevated risk who prefer to wear a N95, bringing your own fit-tested N95 masks will provide you with the highest level of protection. We discourage the use of cloth masks as they do not offer sufficient protection.
- There will be a number of rooms available for dining during the symposium, including the largest conference room. We encourage you to spread out during provided meals.
- Plenty of space is available in the main conference room and in some of the breakout rooms for you to distance yourself from others. We encourage you to find a different breakout session if the room is full for the session you planned to attend.

- We appreciate your diligence and commitment to keeping each other safe while we likewise continue to advocate and care for the greatest safety for our clients.

In solidarity,
The ISMS 18 Planning Committee