

About this Guide

It is the policy of the American Public Health Association to hold events (meetings, conferences and professional gatherings) where physical and communication barriers do not exclude people with disabilities from attending and participating.

This guide has been designed to provide city-specific information about accessibility at the Annual Meeting. **Anyone requiring accommodations to participate in the meeting should check the appropriate box on the registration and housing forms and indicate specific needs.** A representative from APHA will follow up with you. Specific requests can also be made directly at access@apha.org or by phone at (202) 777-2528

Visit the [Annual Meeting website](#) for more information about accessibility.

Contents

ABOUT THIS GUIDE	1
ABOUT APHA 2022	2
APHA MEETING PROPERTIES	2
APHA PROVIDED ACCESS SERVICES	2
ACCESSIBILITY BOOTH	2
GENERAL INFORMATION DESKS	3
MEETING ROOM SET UPS.....	3
CHEMICAL SENSITIVITY	3
WHEELCHAIRS OR OTHER MOBILITY SUPPORTS	3
PERSONAL AIDE.....	3
ATTENDEES WHO ARE DEAF/HARD OF HEARING	3
SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETERS	3
AMPLIFICATION DEVICES	4
GETTING TO BOSTON	4
BOSTON LOGAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (BOS)	4
GETTING AROUND BOSTON	4
TAXI SERVICE	4
PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION.....	4
PARKING AT THE CONVENTION CENTER	4
BOSTON TRAVEL INFORMATION	4
APHA PROVIDED TRANSPORTATION	4
TAXI AND SHARED RIDE REIMBURSEMENT.....	4
HOUSING/HOTEL RESERVATIONS	5
ACCESS SERVICES AND EQUIPMENT	5

About APHA 2022

The 2022 Annual Meeting will take place in Boston, MA. Join us in-person for four days of insightful presentations, engaging activities and face-to-face networking. **All scientific sessions, business meetings and events will take place live, in-person.** With more than 1,000 presentations, we're covering nearly every public health topic. Plus, the 2022 Annual Meeting and expo is the culmination of APHA's 150th anniversary celebration.

For those who cannot travel, we're hosting a digital version of APHA 2022 on Nov. 14-16. This will include access to recordings of more than 120 sessions from the Annual meeting. The Featured and General Sessions are included, along with up to two sessions selected by each APHA Section. You'll even be able to participate live in the Opening General Session on Nov. 6. **All recordings will be closed captioned.**

APHA Meeting Properties

APHA's 2022 Annual Meeting and Expo takes place at the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center (BCEC) and the Westin Boston Seaport District.

Boston Convention and Exhibition Center – 415 Summer St., Boston, MA 02210

The BCEC is just 2.9 miles from Logan International Airport and conveniently located near many of the hotels in APHA's hotel block. Located in the Seaport district of Boston, there are plenty of options for food and beverage and shopping.

Attendees should enter from the Summer Street entrance which enters directly into the North Lobby. The North Lobby is home to registration, the information desk, an accessibility desk and more.

Westin Boston Seaport District – 425 Summer St., Boston, MA 02210

The Westin is attached to the convention center via a skybridge. The hotel is ADA compliant with mobility accessible rooms. For information about the physical features of accessible rooms, common areas or special services relating to a specific disability please call 617-532-4600.

The Westin proudly provides accessible guest rooms which are equipped with the following items:

- Accessible Vanities
- Adjustable Height Hand-Held Shower Wand\
- Alarm Clock Telephone Ringers
- Bathtub Grab Rails
- Bathtub Seat
- Close Caption TV
- Flashing Door Knockers
- Hearing Accessible Rooms and/or Kits
- Lever Handles on Guest Room Doors
- Lowered Deadbolts on Guest Room Doors
- Lowered Electrical Outlets
- Lowered Night Guards on Guest Room Doors
- Lowered Viewports in Guest Room Doors
- Mobility accessible rooms
- Non-slip Grab Rails in the Bathroom
- Roll-in Shower
- TTY/TTD Compatible
- Toilet Seat at Wheelchair Height - Toilet for Disabled
- Transfer Showers in Guest Rooms

APHA Provided Access Services

Accessibility Booth

An accessibility booth will be set up in the North Lobby of the BCEC. Stop by to find out how to navigate between APHA properties, meet your sign language interpreter, get information about the complimentary ADA van service and more. The accessibility booth will be open during registration hours.

General Information Desks

APHA information desks will be set up at the BCEC. The desk will be staffed by temporary personnel who are knowledgeable about the convention center. They will also be able to provide information about the ADA van service, the APHA Program, session locations, etc. Registrants who need to request a wheelchair accessible van pick up should call the shuttle service directly.

Meeting Room Set Ups

APHA requests all rooms be set with aisle space and cut-outs for wheelchair users. Standard setup includes a head table and podium for presenters. If you are presenting and require a tabletop or wireless microphone, please notify APHA in writing at least **3 weeks in advance** of the meeting. Should you require a special set up contact us at access@apha.org or (202) 777-2528.

Chemical Sensitivity

The Annual Meeting is a smoke-free event. Smoking is not permitted in any of the meeting venues or at APHA sponsored social events. Specific requests will be made to the hotels and the convention center that chemicals (including paint and cleaning products) not be used in the meeting room within four days of the commencement of our meeting and that only unscented products be used in guest rooms. In addition, APHA requests that its meeting attendees refrain from wearing perfume, cologne, aftershave, and other fragranced, scented, or odorous personal care products such as shampoo, hairspray, and hand lotion, for the health and comfort of meeting participants with chemical sensitivities.

APHA's official decorator, Freeman, installs carpeting just before the Public Health Expo opens. The carpet is made from 100% polypropylene fibers and is fully recyclable. In some cases when the carpet is new, there may be some off-gassing that could affect people with chemical sensitivity.

Wheelchairs or other Mobility Supports

Due to the large size of the Annual Meeting, sessions are sometimes spread out and distances between sessions can be considerable. If you are a regular wheelchair user, you should bring your chair with you. If you can get along without a wheelchair but feel that you may need one to navigate the distances at the BCEC, electric scooters can be rented from local suppliers (see page 5). Visit the Accessibility Desk in the North Lobby if you need assistance charging your wheelchair.

Personal Aide

Should you require an aide or personal assistant to help navigate the Annual Meeting, APHA will register your aide as a complimentary guest. [Email us](#) to register your personal aide (name, city and state are required for the badge). The badge for the personal aide will be mailed to the attendee (not the aide). Personal aides may attend sessions and access the exhibit hall but are not eligible to earn CE credits.

Attendees who are Deaf/Hard of Hearing

Sign Language Interpreters

American Sign Language Interpreters can be arranged by APHA. You must be registered for the meeting before an interpreter can be requested. An ASL Request Form, indicating a preliminary schedule must be submitted to APHA no later than **Sept. 9**. A final schedule of sessions is due **Oct. 7**. [Download copies](#) of the form from our website or contact access@apha.org. A schedule of the sessions you plan to attend is required. You can use the online program to arrange your schedule.

On-site requests for interpreters can be made at the Accessibility Desk in the registration area. However, APHA cannot guarantee that the sign language provider will be able to accommodate the request without advance notice.

Amplification Devices

A limited number of amplification devices will be available. These compact devices amplify the sound in the room and can be carried from one room to another. For best results you may want to sit near the front of the room to better hear the presentations. To reserve an amplification device ahead of time, contact access@apha.org. Onsite, arrangements can be made by visiting the Accessibility Desk in the registration area.

Getting To Boston

Boston Logan International Airport (BOS)

The BCEC is just 2.9 miles from Boston Logan International Airport. The airport provides accessible services. Visit their [accessibility webpage](#) for more details.

Getting Around Boston

Taxi Service

Accessible taxi cabs in Boston are known as WAVs. This stands for Wheelchair Accessible Vehicles. WAVs are part of the City's general taxi fleet. They operate just like standard cabs. You can hail them on-street or call ahead for pickup. [More information](#).

Public Transportation

The BCEC is steps away from the MBTA's Silver Line World Trade Center stop, which is the same subway line that services Logan Airport. The MBTA is fully accessible. [More information](#) on MBTA's accessibility services.

Parking at the Convention Center

To self-park (\$25 and \$50 for oversized vehicles), from Summer Street, turn onto East Side Drive, drive past the valet area, and continue straight along the side of the building. At the end of the building, make a right and go down the ramp. At the bottom of the ramp, turn left and you will see the entrance to the South Parking lot in front of you. **Accessible parking spaces are located in this lot, closest to the building** (the same parking rates apply).

Boston Travel Information

- Boston Disabilities Commission - <https://www.boston.gov/departments/disabilities-commission>
- Visit Boston Accessibility Information - <https://www.bostonusa.com/plan/transportation/getting-around/accessibility/>
- Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority - <https://www.mbta.com/accessibility>

APHA Provided Transportation

APHA will provide shuttle service between the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center and hotels not within walking distance of the hotel. A [schedule and list of hotels](#) are located online. All vans are wheelchair accessible.

Additionally, wheelchair accessible van transportation can be scheduled upon request to nearby hotels. Visit or call the ADA Van Shuttle Desk located in the lobby of the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center. Please provide the shuttle company with advance notice of when and where you will need a pickup. Be sure to indicate during registration and housing that you plan to use the On Call Accessible Transportation. We will send special instructions on how to contact the housing desk in advance of the meeting.

Taxi and Shared Ride Reimbursement

Registrants who are unable to utilize APHA's on call accessible transportation option may utilize cab service, Lyft or Uber to and from official APHA hotels and the Convention Center.

APHA will reimburse for taxi fares between the Convention Center and official **APHA Annual Meeting properties**. Submit all receipts to APHA after the meeting (c/o Conventions Dept., 800 I Street, NW, Washington, DC 20001) **no later than Dec. 2, 2022**. APHA will not reimburse for taxi fares from the Convention Center to offsite events as these are not sanctioned APHA events.

Housing/Hotel Reservations

Reservations for housing at the APHA Annual Meeting must be made through the official APHA Housing Service, Spargo, Inc. Please advise housing of any accessibility accommodations needed. Make your reservation as early as possible as there are a limited number of accessible rooms available at each property. All ADA rooms are guaranteed. [More information about housing](#), including a map and a link to book housing.

Additionally, APHA collects detailed accessibility surveys from all official APHA hotels such as accessible entrances, parking and drop-off areas at the hotels and information regarding accessible public areas, guest rooms, meeting rooms, restaurants, hotel amenities and assistive devices. A spreadsheet, comparing the results of these surveys, is available as a PDF file on our [accessibility webpage](#).

Access Services and Equipment

Please note: These references are provided for information purposes only and are not endorsed by APHA. Meeting participants are required to arrange for, and cover costs associated with the renting of mobility aids (such as scooters) or access services. **APHA encourages members to do their own research**. APHA does not reimburse for costs incurred by attendees for this equipment or access services.

Accessible Van Rentals	
Wheeler's Accessible Van Rentals 800-456-1371 https://wheelersvanrentals.com/	Wheelchair Getaways 866-224-1750 https://www.accessiblevans.com/local/boston-ma-wheelchair-van-rental
Durable Medical Equipment	
Cambridge Medical Supply, Inc. 617-876-3810 https://cambridgemedicalsupply.com/	AM-PM Medical Supplies 877-707-9643 http://www.boston-medical-supply.com/
Scooter/Wheelchair Rentals	
Scotaround 888-441-7575 https://scotaround.com/en/boston	AM-PM Medical Supplies 877-707-9643 http://www.boston-medical-supply.com/