

LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY

COVID-19
MEETING PLANNER
RESPONSE PLAN





“Lexington, we will get through this together, and we will be stronger than ever as a result.”

In January 2019, when I stood in Gatton Student Center at the University of Kentucky and took the oath to serve as Mayor of Lexington, I knew I was signing up for a challenge. However, I don't know that anyone could have predicted that the challenge would be a pandemic, and its devastating impact on the local, state and national economy.

The state's first case of COVID-19 was diagnosed in our City on March 6. Since then, I have drawn on my nursing background and my years on Council to chart a course for our City and our citizens.

I want to thank Dr. Kraig Humbaugh, Commissioner of Public Health, for the leadership he has provided to Lexington during this crisis. His work has saved many lives.

I also want to thank those who have remained on the front lines, day in and day out, including our police officers, firefighters and corrections officers; our E-911, waste management and water quality teams; our excellent health care community; and our grocery clerks, pharmacy employees, gas station attendants ... everyone who kept their doors open to keep the rest of us safe and functioning.

And I want to thank our citizens. Everyone who listened to the guidance, and stayed healthy at home. Those who have been wearing masks and observing social distancing.

Because of the work of our citizens, Lexington has “flattened the curve,” and is now prepared to begin to reopen the economy.

It is important that we get our economy moving and get our people back to work in a safe and healthy way. This is the challenge of our times – a challenge we will meet and overcome.

I have always believed strong partnerships are the source of Lexington's strength, and we definitely see those partnerships at work in this report. I want to especially thank my co-chair Luther Deaton, Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer of Central Bank, for his assistance in leading this effort. Luther has long been a leader in the economic development efforts of our community. I also want to thank our vice-chairs, Mary Quinn Ramer, President of VisitLEX, and Bob Quick, President and Chief Executive Officer of Commerce Lexington. Their assistance has been invaluable during this effort.

This recovery team has worked with over 130 leaders from across our great community, leaders from nearly every sector of our economy who offered invaluable guidance on the specific needs of their businesses.

Lexington, we will get through this together, and we will be stronger than ever as a result. The effort and input of this committee has been about Lexington's Economy Getting Open and Staying Open.

Thank you,

Linda Gorton

Linda Gorton, Mayor



MEET LEXINGTON

Lexington, Kentucky is a special city, and we fiercely love it.

As we face this global pandemic, our Mayor, Linda Gorton, organized a COVID-19 Economic Response Committee comprised of 132 community members representing the city's major economic sectors. Together they created a 50-plus page Lexington blueprint with a total of 330 recommendations for reopening the economy.

As a meeting planner, we know how important safety and cleanliness are for you and your attendees. We've taken our city's 50-plus page Lexington blueprint, and narrowed it down to some key guidelines that we are incorporating to make sure your next meeting is memorable. For the full Economic Response Committee report, visit <https://www.lexingtonky.gov/COVID-19>.

Hotels, Convention Centers and other Meeting Facilities

Lexington's meeting and convention hotels have a wide variety of flexible meeting spaces, and historically focus on cleanliness, as guest expectations have always been high in this area. All facilities should follow the guidelines issued by the American Hotel and Lodging Association (AHLA). Most of the hotel products in Lexington are part of major hotel brands such as Hilton, Hyatt, IHG, and Marriott. All of these major brands have introduced cleaning programs and protocols to address COVID-19 that will incorporate these guidelines and utilize specialty disinfectants.

Best practices that are currently being recommended and utilized in Lexington are:

- Facilities should display increased signage for staff, along with COVID-19 specific training
- All employees and guests should wear personal Protective Equipment (PPE). All Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) must be provided by the facility. Visible hand disinfectants with at least 60% alcohol stations should be made available in entrances, restrooms, lobbies, elevators, meeting spaces, front desks, etc.
- Public and communal spaces should be cleaned frequently with hospital grade disinfectant once per hour
- Meeting planners should work with the facilities to revise set-ups to accommodate for social distancing

TOURISM INDUSTRY PARTNERS

Attractions, bars/restaurants, breweries/distilleries, public and private transportation companies and retailers have individual plans in accordance with the Governor of Kentucky's Healthy at Work minimum requirements for reopening and CDC guidelines.

Best practices that are currently being recommended and utilized in Lexington are:

- Signage at the place of business that includes the responsibilities of the guest, emphasizes the importance of maintaining social distance, encourages the safe use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), and reminds employees and guests about frequent handwashing and sanitization
- Limited capacity to promote social distancing
- Installation of barriers for point of sale areas to protect employees and customers
- High-touch surfaces are cleaned frequently throughout the day
- Guests and visitors should wear masks as recommended by the Governor of Kentucky

In addition to meeting minimum requirements, all businesses must meet industry-specific requirements in order to reopen and remain open, and those detailed specifications can be found at <https://govstatus.egov.com/ky-healthy-at-work>.

COVID-19 Meeting Attendee Checklist

To help you and your meeting attendees safely travel during this pandemic, we've put together this list of tips:

- Pack enough alcohol-based hand sanitizer (at least 60% alcohol) and keep it within easy to reach to clean your hands often
- Bring a cloth face covering to wear in public places
- Pick up food and other items using drive-throughs and curbside service
- Avoid close contact with others, maintaining six feet of physical distance from others.
- * Cover coughs and sneezes, and avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth

We think our city is special. Meeting Planners who have worked with our team at VisitLEX give Lexington a 92% approval rating as a meeting destination. We know and understand that these are unprecedented times for our industry, so be assured that we will do whatever it takes to make you and your attendees' experiences here safe and memorable.



Lexington Convention & Visitors Bureau

(859) 233-1221 | (800) 848-1224

Meetings@VisitLEX.com | [VisitLEX.com/Meet](https://www.visitlex.com/Meet)

