

COVID ADJUSTMENT of SCHEDULE, ENVIRONMENT and MINI-WAIVER

By virtue of signing up for an in-person course – it is obvious that you are accepting the current general risks involved with a class in that kind of setting. None of us know perfectly the nature of that risk. We don't judge those who are concerned about it more or who are concerned about it less. We are not judging.

While you may need graduate hours - we have offered, and other providers offer – courses you may take at home, instead of coming to an outside location. You will need to initial that you are aware of other options besides in-person courses: _____ (You do not need to initial this until the first day of class, nor do you need to print and copy it now – an exact copy of this waiver will be presented to you on the first morning)

Still, Communicate Institute and our hotel partners want to provide an environment that meets the standards of preparation expected by state orders, and also, for establishing confidence for you, as we approach the class. Those are good things. 😊

Hotels:

The hotels are versed in the Ohio Health Department expectations, and will disinfect the entire environment in line with those expectations. Obviously, the hotel is engaged in full-scale disinfectant mode for the entire hotel besides just the meeting room, and so you should have confidence in the facilities. CI knows the management at these facilities very well, on a first name basis, and have had very cooperative and direct discussions about the room. **Specific areas of focus:**

*Nightly disinfectant of hard surfaces, tables, chairs, etc. *No linens

*We will have tables arranged with seats that are 6 feet apart, with likely four at a table. These tables will not include typical rectangular models in which 2 people sit side-by-side. We are using larger round tables or larger pods of rectangles that spread participants out.

*We will assign *particular* chairs to participants, labeled with your name with tape for the week.

Communicate Institute:

*We ask if you have any symptoms seeming to align with COVID- to please not come. A consistent cough, sore throat, or fever, particularly, will likely cause stress in the room.

*We will have a **touchless thermometer** which will measure body temperature each morning. Anything above 99.9 will require a re-measurement in 5 minutes, and then, perhaps waiting in your car until the first break of the day (approx. 9am) to re-measure before you would be unable to continue for the day.

***Masks are semi-required of participants. They are required as a general rule to attend.** You cannot remove the mask for obviously long periods (more than 5 minutes) of time as a personal preference while in the room. However, you may remove the mask for comfort occasionally, as long as your group is not in table discussion. So – if watching a video or when the instructor is speaking solely, participants may unmask for a few minutes until reapplying. When there is any dedicated small group discussion, or when a participant contributes to whole group, we are asking that masks be worn for precaution.

***More frequent breaks** will also be utilized to help with mask discomfort.

*Classes **will meet on 2 Saturdays and Sundays from 8am to 3:00 pm daily**, with a working lunch, which is 7 hours. In the summer, there are 5 days to work with. This fall, since we are only going to utilize Sat/Sun, there will be an extra two page response paper due between the two weekends to make up for missed time.

The shortening of meeting hours is really less about overall risk and more about our prediction regarding the fatigue of the environment. It's a prediction. We think that mask-wearing, and even the slightest ever-presence of thinking about the virus will cause mental fatigue. The time reduction/flexibility is meant to acknowledge that.

Please sign and date that you accept these terms sign _____ date _____

We are sorry that we are all going through this. – Communicate Institute