



## DATA TO SUPPORT THE SAFETY OF TRAVEL FOR PROFESSIONAL MEETINGS AND EVENTS



TSA recently extended the mask mandate on all forms of transportation through January 2022. The universal wearing of masks in airports, airplanes, trains, and other forms of public transportation is both an effective safeguard against spreading the virus and boosts public confidence in traveling – both of which are paramount for a sustained economic recovery.

A [Harvard study](#) finds that through a layered approach to risk mitigation, the scientific evidence shows a low risk of COVID-19 transmission on aircraft.

The [Aerospace and International Airline Medical Associations](#) found that the risk of contracting COVID-19 during air travel is lower than contracting the virus while in an office building, classroom, grocery store or commuter train.

- According to the research, Airplanes maintain clean air by circulating air through HEPA filters, the same type of air filters used in hospital operating rooms.

**Professional meetings and events are conducted under controlled environments allowing for maximum health and safety.**

[According to Ohio State University](#), professional business meetings and events have the advantage of being structured and well-organized large gatherings put together by professional meeting planners and are held in controlled environments where mitigation factors can be enforced to protect the health and safety of participants.

[Research conducted by Freeman](#) shows that air quality of indoor events in many hotels and convention centers is extremely high. Most major convention centers and hotels have significantly upgraded their HVAC systems in the last year and voluminous event spaces are similar to outdoor transmissibility.

**As summer travel ends – air travel among business travelers is found to be even safer.**

In general, business travelers are well educated and have higher incomes. They are also significantly more likely to be vaccinated. As of mid-July, nearly nine in 10 corporate travel buyers and suppliers were at least partly vaccinated, according to a [July 2021 Global Business Travel Association member poll](#).

**Factors other than fear of contracting Covid-19 is what keeps many business travelers from attending events. As these other factors become less of an issue, attendance should continue to increase.**

According to a [May 2021 Global Business Travel Association member poll](#), Government policies that restrict or make travel difficult accounts for 55% of those polled who are not traveling, followed by company policies restricting employees (23%) and travel budgets (11%).