

What's it like to attend an in-person conference again?

This past week, I had the opportunity to travel (via plane!) to my first in-person conference SINCE MARCH 2020. When I was initially presented with the opportunity, I was both excited and nervous. Are we doing in-person yet? What's it going to be like, what should I expect?

First and foremost, it was nice to be around other professionals in a productive environment again. From the social aspect of getting to see people you know, making new connections, and being around other professionals was great. As you can imagine, it does come with apprehensions.

Do I mask up, how do I greet others, what's the protocol?... yikes! Relax. As we have seen with our greater society, attendees will present themselves as they would in their daily lives. Masked/unmasked, handshakes/fist pumps, social distance/close quarter greetings. The main thing is to present yourself the way you are most comfortable. If you have young children at home and feel the need to mask up, do it. If you are vaccinated, feel comfortable with a handshake then do so (pro tip- bring a small bottle of hand sanitizer). This is uncharted territory for all of us. Being comfortable makes you more effective professionally and personally. Here is my one big ask:

If someone presents themselves differently, respect their decisions. If they are unmasked, don't feel obligated to take yours off. If you are unmasked and a colleague is masked, treat them as you would in any other situation. We all have our own ways of dealing with this new normal. Respect and understanding are your first keys to a successful in-person conference.

Hope to see you next time.

Ron



Just a few scenes from a recent in-person conference our President, Ron Adams attended. Yes, that's Jeopardy Champion and new host- Ken Jennings!