



**AUTHENTIC
APPROACHES**

HEALTH & SAFETY GUIDE

2024 NODA Annual Conference

Portland, OR

November 11-14, 2024



MISSION STATEMENT

The purpose of this Health & Safety Guide is to provide NODA members with information on the conference host city, Portland, OR, to support the:

- Health and safety of members, employees, or participants in Association sponsored events and activities;
- Awareness of external circumstances which may reasonably be foreseen to have potential impact on NODA activities;
- Any other types of risk that can be reasonably foreseen by Association event and activity planners and managers, staff, and leaders.

POINTS OF CONTACT IN CRISIS

911 should be the first emergency call number if the wellbeing of any participant, volunteer, or staff is at risk. If you contact 911 while on site with the conference, please notify a NODA Staff or Conference Committee Member.

Police Emergency: Dial 911

Hotel Security: From inside the Hotel, dial "0" from any landline phone. From cell phone or off-site, dial 678-770-0527

NODA Association Staff: Visit the conference office, Plaza Suite located on the second floor of the Hilton or email the association at noda@umn.edu.

For situations that are not an immediate threat to life or property, call the Portland non-emergency line at 503-823-3333.

CONFERENCE HOTELS

Hilton Downtown Portland: 921 SW 6th Ave, Portland, OR 97204

The Duniway: 545 SW Taylor Street, Portland, OR 97204

HEALTH & SAFETY PROTOCOLS

Below are some points of guidance for the sections below as you prepare to travel to and spend time with us in Portland throughout the NODA Annual Conference:

1. Take some time to review this Health & Safety Guide. [Additional Safety in Portland Resources](#).
2. Pay attention to your surroundings.
3. Use individual discretion when choosing how you engage.
4. If you prefer to avoid areas specific, identify alternate walking/travel routes before departing.
5. Travel in groups when possible. When not possible, let folks know you are traveling alone and check in when you get to your locations. Should any Conference Solo Travelers need a contact for the duration of the conference, please reach out to the conference committee at nodac2024@umn.edu.

Houseless Populations in Portland

Houselessness is a national issue that is impacting Portland and many other cities, particularly on the West Coast ([State of Homelessness: 2024](#)). Due to a lack of shelter availability in Portland for those in need, the unsheltered population tends to be more visible. [Learn more about how Portland is working to address and support homelessness](#).

For the purposes of this guide, we have chosen to use the term “houseless” in place of “homeless,” though you will see some specific resources that still use “Homeless” to specify services. The word “homeless” often comes with negative connotations and stigmas. Further, “home” can be defined beyond just the physical space and often include communities, connection, and memories. The use of “houseless” focuses specifically on the person/s, most of whom are impacted by housing unstable environments.

As we prepare for NODA members to join us in Portland, it was important for us to highlight some [common myths about Houselessness](#). Take some time to review the work being supported by the Joint Office of Homeless Services on [Understanding Houselessness](#) and [Ending Houselessness](#).

Protests & Civil Unrest

As we prepare for the Annual Conference to take place less than one week after the United States Election Day, it is important for all NODA members to be aware that there is a possibility of protests and civil unrest to occur in Downtown Portland.

The NODA Crisis Management Team have been meeting and have created an emergency plan for this conference. This includes assessing any concerns connected to protests and civil unrest, and communication to conference attendees. The Crisis Management Team consists of:

- NODA President, Joe Thomas
- Conference Chair, Michael Gonzalez
- NODA Staff, Joyce Holl and Chris Verhege

The Crisis Management Team will continue to be in communication with Travel Portland Bureau for regular updates regarding the political landscape of the city leading up to and following the election.

All communications regarding protests and civil unrest come directly from the Association email: noda@umn.edu.

Communicable Disease

As of Summer 2024, Portland currently has no restriction on mass gatherings. [The annual conference health & safety protocol statement can be found here](#). If this changes, after the publishing of this guide, all conference attendees will be notified.

- If a participant or staff member feels ill and exhibits symptoms of COVID-19 or other communicable disease. The participant should isolate until they feel better and receive a negative COVID test. The Association can provide over the counter COVID tests upon request.
- If someone at the conference reports a positive COVID test or other communicable disease to the conference office, NODA Staff will determine the best course of action.
- If more than 3 people test positive, NODA Staff will contact the hotel AND health department guidance.