



# AVS 67<sup>th</sup> INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM & EXHIBITION

Symposium: October 24-29, 2021 | Exhibit: October 26-28, 2021

CHARLOTTE CONVENTION CENTER • CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA, USA



## AVS 67 Health & Safety Plan

To promote the safety of everyone attending AVS 67, we will monitor the guidance and requirements of the [Centers for Disease Control \(CDC\)](#), [State of North Carolina](#), the [North Carolina Department of Public Health](#), [World Health Organization](#) and other local [Charlotte facility regulations](#) regarding COVID-19 safety practices. Therefore, this Attendee Safety Plan may change from time to time through the last day of AVS 67 in October 2021.

The Charlotte Convention Center is taking measures to prevent community spread of infectious diseases, which includes undertaking enhanced cleaning and disinfection procedures in response to a confirmed or suspected case of COVID-19 in their facility. The Center will work with the Mecklenburg County and state health departments to ensure appropriate local protocols and guidelines, such as updated/additional guidance for cleaning and disinfection, are followed, including identification of new potential cases of COVID-19.

Please note that effective July 27, 2021, the CDC is now advising those vaccinated (either fully or partially) to wear facemasks while indoors in public. As a result, AVS is requiring all attendees (vaccinated and unvaccinated) at the AVS 67<sup>th</sup> International Symposium & Exhibition to wear a face mask while in the Charlotte Convention Center or while attending all AVS hosted/sponsored events or meetings at any facility.

**IMPORTANT:** In light of events surrounding COVID-19, this is an appropriate time to remind ourselves of the risks incident to attending AVS 67. Even with every reasonable precaution to keep you safe as outlined for you by the CDC, AVS cannot fully eliminate all risks of harm to attendees or guarantee their safety, especially from risks posed by COVID-19 or its variant strains. **Ultimately, you are responsible for your own safety.**

### WHAT WE ARE DOING FOR YOUR SAFETY:

#### REQUIREMENTS—ALL CONFERENCE AREAS:

- **Face Masks must be worn:** An acceptable “mask” is made of at least two layers of breathable fabric or hospital grade material; fully covers the nose, nostrils, and mouth; fits firmly under the chin; and fits snugly, but comfortably against the side of the face.
- **Social Distancing**—be mindful of the social distancing protocols and compliant with the all posted instructions and signage.
- **Temperature Screening—Located Registration Area & Outside of Exhibit Hall**
  - All attendees will be screened upon entrance and anyone who presents signs of illness or is determined to be a person of concern by on-site security due to COVID-19 like symptoms—including but not limited to fever, coughing or shortness/difficulty in breathing, loss of taste/smell, fatigue or headaches—will be denied entry or asked to leave the venue and advised to seek medical attention immediately. A negative COVID-19 test must be presented at the Registration Desk for consideration. Upon review, you may be granted approval to return to the meeting.
- All attendees are required to provide a working mobile phone number to AVS and emergency contact at the time of registration in case AVS is notified by any government or local health department that contact tracing is required.
- All Registrants will be asked to Review and accept the *AVS 67 Assumption of the Risk and Waiver of Liability* statement prior to printing their badge.

### **ENTRY & SYMPTOM EVALUATIONS:**

- Signage will appear at any entrance alerting attendees that entry will be denied if they have:
  - been diagnosed with COVID-19 in the last fourteen (14) days,
  - exhibited symptoms of COVID-19 in the last fourteen (14) days, or
  - had contact with a person that has or is suspected of having COVID-19 within the past fourteen (14) days and have not completed a quarantine protocol, or
  - refused to wear a mask at entry or while in the Charlotte Convention Center or any facility hosting an AVS-sponsored event or meeting.
  - Attendees must adhere to the requirements of any such signage and any directives from AVS and/or the Charlotte Convention Center given onsite during AVS 67<sup>th</sup> International Symposium & Exhibition. Failure to do so could result in the denial of entry or removal from the venue altogether without refund
- **AVS reserves the right to deny such entry to anyone seeking admittance or to remove them from the venue should they present with any COVID-19 like symptoms or refuse to wear a mask while indoors whether vaccinated or not. No refunds will be given and such conduct may disqualify such individuals from attending future AVS programs.**

### **ISOLATION AREA:**

- A designated isolation area for individuals experiencing COVID-19-like symptoms. This area is located in the First Aid Room located next to the Richardson Ballroom. You will be asked to remain in this area until you have secured an appointment at one of the testing facilities below, at which time you will be directed out of the building.
- AVS will assist those presenting COVID-19-like symptoms to exit safely.
- Individuals may have COVID testing done at one of the following nearby locations:
  - [Better Med Urgent Care](#), 1431 South Blvd, Charlotte, NC, 704-709-1171, (.69 miles from CC)
  - [Atrium Health Urgent Care](#), 1426 E. Morehead St., Charlotte, NC (1.29 miles from CC)
  - [Atrium Mobile Site](#), 517 Baldwin Ave, Charlotte, NC, 800-821-1535, , (1.17 miles from CC)
  - [CVS COVID Drive-Thru](#), 1235 Pecan Ave, Charlotte, NC, (1.78 miles from CC)
  - [OneSpotMD Primary and Urgent Care](#), 2017 Central Avenue, Suite 103, Charlotte, NC, (2.21 miles from CC)
  - [Finding Other Options](#)
- A negative COVID-19 test must be presented at the Registration Desk for consideration. Upon review, you may be granted approval to return to the meeting.

In addition, AVS will be implementing the following safety measures in addition to the enhanced Charlotte Convention Center cleaning protocols in each Symposium area:

### **ALL AREAS:**

- Handshaking, hugging, or other unnecessary person-to-person contact will be discouraged between all participants.
- AVS will remind participants through appropriate signage.

### **REGISTRATION AREA:**

- Requirement for pre-registration in order to minimize lines in Registration Area
- Plexiglas Barriers will be used between registration staff and attendees as part of entry screening and registration
- More registration staff and scan-and-go equipment to limit lines and reduce touch-points
- Limited Conference handouts or material bins
- Temperature Screening of all Registrants

### **SESSION ROOMS:**

- Sanitizing kits in every session room
- Presentation Area sanitizing wipe-down between presenters
- Socially distanced seating where appropriate and feasible
- Hand sanitizer stations in session hallways

### **EXHIBIT HALL:**

- Dedicated exhibit hall entrance and exit
- Controlled foot traffic patterns
- Hand sanitizer stations throughout hall
- Additional F&B stations with more pre-packaged options

### **POSTER SESSIONS/RECEPTIONS:**

- Socially distanced poster layout with wider poster aisles
- Controlled foot traffic patterns
- Set up will contain fewer poster boards than space will allow
- Less posters per board
- Sanitizing kits available throughout the room.
- Hand sanitizer stations throughout the room.
- Dedicated entrance and exit
- Additional drink stations to minimize lines

### **OTHER RECOMMENDED GUIDELINES:**

#### **We encourage you to be vaccinated:**

- **Fully Vaccinated:** According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), a fully vaccinated person is anyone having received the second dose of Pfizer/BioNTech or Moderna vaccines or the single-dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine and two weeks have transpired since the last dose.

#### **Deciding to Attend:**

- Anyone unvaccinated and having underlying COVID-19-related risk factors should not attend.
- Anyone exhibiting any symptoms or signs of sickness or who has been in contact with known positive COVID-19 cases should not attend.
- Anyone testing positive for COVID-19 within the last 14 days from the start of the AVS 67<sup>th</sup> International Symposium and Exhibition should not attend.
- **Anyone vaccinated or unvaccinated and planning to attend will be required to wear a mask while in the Charlotte Convention Center any facility hosting an AVS-sponsored event or meeting.**

#### **Traveling to Attend:**

- If unvaccinated, it is **inadvisable** for you to attend. Fully vaccinated travelers should still follow CDC's recommendations for traveling safely including: wear a mask, stay 6 feet (2 meters) from others, and wash your hands or use hand sanitizer.
- If fully vaccinated with an FDA-authorized vaccine or a vaccine authorized for emergency use by the World Health Organization, one can travel safely within the United States.
- Fully vaccinated domestic travelers do not need to get tested before or after travel unless their destination or airline requires it. U.S-bound international travelers will need to be tested no more than 3 days before arrival in the U.S. and show your negative test result to the airline before you board the flight. Check with the CDC for guidelines on using some self COVID-19 tests to meet entry requirements. Travelers are advised to check for additional testing requirements or restrictions based upon their point of origin and destination.
- Fully vaccinated travelers need not self-quarantine upon arrival in the U.S.

**AVS reserves the right to deny such entry to anyone seeking admittance or remove them from the venue should they: Present with any COVID-19 like symptoms, refuse to wear a mask while indoors whether vaccinated or not, or comply with other specified guidelines.**

**No refunds will be given and such conduct may disqualify such individuals from attending future AVS programs.**