



AVS 68th INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM & EXHIBITION

November 6-11, 2022 • Pittsburgh, PA

Health & Safety Plan

To promote the safety of everyone attending the AVS 68th International Symposium & Exhibition (AVS 68), we will monitor the guidance and requirements of the [Centers for Disease Control \(CDC\)](#), [State of Pennsylvania](#), the [Pennsylvania Department of Health](#), and the [World Health Organization](#) regarding COVID-19 safety practices. Therefore, this Attendee Safety Plan may change from time to time through the last day of AVS 68, November 11, 2022.

The David L. Lawrence Convention Center has implemented a [variety of new protocols and elevated practices](#), in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and keeping with our high standards of cleanliness and commitment to providing excellent service. In addition, the Conference hotels – Westin Convention Center Pittsburgh, and Omni William Penn will follow the health and safety plans outlined by [VisitPittsburgh](#).

IMPORTANT: In light of events surrounding COVID-19, this is an appropriate time to remind ourselves of the risks incident to attending AVS 68. 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.**

Deciding to Attend:

- Anyone 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 AVS 68 should not attend.
- Anyone who refuses to meet the requirements listed below should not attend.

WHAT WE ARE DOING FOR YOUR SAFETY:

REQUIREMENTS:

- **Be Prepared to Provide Proof of COVID-19 Vaccination or Negative COVID:** Each attendee may be asked to provide either their COVID-19 vaccination card (physical or photo) and ID (physical) or a negative COVID-19 test (physical or photo) and ID (physical) at registration. All on-site AVS 68 staff, contractors, and vendors must be in compliance with this rule, as well. No exceptions.
 - If providing proof of vaccination, the vaccine card (physical or photo) must show both the first and second dose of Pfizer/BioNTech or Moderna vaccines or the single-dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine. Mixed vaccines will also be accepted (one dose of Moderna and one dose of Pfizer). Vaccines approved by the [World Health Organization \(WHO\)/CDC](#) will also be accepted. Please note that your final vaccine must be administered at least two weeks prior to the first day of AVS 68, November 6, 2022. You must also show your ID (physical).
 - If providing COVID-19 test results, you must show a negative result (physical or photo), dated within 24 hours if Antigen test, or 48-72 hours if PCR test before the date of admission (no home tests). You must also show your ID (physical).
- **Face Masks Recommended:** Masks are currently optional; however, AVS 68 recommends wearing them in larger group settings. In addition, you should be prepared to wear a face mask during all AVS 68 sessions and events if guidelines should change. 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 all posted instructions and signage.

- **Emergency Contact Number:** All attendees are required to provide a mobile phone number to AVS in case AVS is notified by any government or local health department that contact tracing is required.
- **Waiver Form:** All Registrants are required to review and accept the *AVS Assumption of the Risk and Waiver of Liability* statement prior to registering.

AVS ASSUMPTION OF RISK AND WAIVER OF LIABILITY:

Please review the following AVS Assumption of Risk and Waiver of Liability Statement. You must accept the statement details outlined in order to be able to complete your registration. If you have any questions about the statement, please contact events@avs.org.

AVS Assumption of Risk and Waiver of Liability Statement: By checking the “I Accept” button below, I, on my behalf and on behalf of each individual included in this registration (“Registrant”), acknowledge the contagious nature of COVID-19 and voluntarily assume the risk that we may be exposed to or infected by COVID-19 by accessing the AVS 68th International Symposium & Exhibition (AVS 68) (“Event”) in-person and that such exposure or infection may result in personal injury, illness, permanent disability, and death. As such, I accept the terms of this Assumption of the Risk and Waiver of Liability. Registrants understand that the risk of becoming exposed to or infected by COVID-19 may result from the actions, omissions, or negligence of myself and others, including, but not limited to, the American Vacuum Society, the David L. Lawrence Convention Center, their respective employees, agents, contractors, volunteers, and other Event participants. Registrants agree to abide by [all preventive measures](#) (collectively “Measures”) put in place by AVS, the David L. Lawrence Convention Center, the Westin Convention Center Pittsburgh, and Omni William Penn, their respective employees, agents, contractors, and volunteers at any time prior to and during the Event including, but not limited to, providing proof of COVID-19 vaccination and or negative PCR or Antigen test, wearing an [acceptable mask](#) if requested, remaining at least six feet away from other Event participants, and promptly notifying AVS if any registrant experiences symptoms of COVID-19 during the Event. Registrants acknowledge that personal failure to follow these Measures may result in being removed from the Event and all related activities without any refund or reimbursement. Finally, Registrants acknowledge that no promises, representations, or affirmations of fact were made to me concerning the safety or danger associated with traveling to the Event or participating in any activity or interaction related to or associated with the Event.

I have reviewed and accept the AVS Assumption of Risk and Waiver of Liability Statement

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
 - not provided proof of COVID-19 vaccination or a negative PCR or Antigen test (as noted above).
 - refused to wear a mask when requested while in the David L. Lawrence Convention Center, the Westin Convention Center Pittsburgh, and Omni William Penn, or any facility hosting an AVS event or meeting.
 - Attendees must adhere to the requirements of any such signage and any directives from AVS staff given onsite during the event. 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 adhere to the policies above. No refunds will be given, and such conduct may disqualify such individuals from attending future AVS Meetings.**

In addition, AVS will be implementing the following safety measures in addition to the enhanced cleaning protocols in each meeting venue:

ALL AREAS:

- Handshaking, hugging, or other unnecessary person-to-person contact is a personal decision based upon your own comfort level.
- AVS will remind participants through appropriate signage and/or verbal communications.

REGISTRATION AREA:

- Requirement of 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 at registration
- Limited Conference handouts or material bins

SESSION ROOMS:

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

EXHIBITS POSTERS/RECEPTIONS:

- Socially distanced layout where feasible
- Hand sanitizer stations throughout the room.
- Additional food and beverage stations where feasible

IF YOU FEEL SICK:

If you have any of the following symptoms (cough, respiratory problems, fever, aches and pains, fatigue, loss of smell or taste, diarrhea), please follow these steps:

AT THE CONFERENCE CENTER:

- There will be a designated isolation area for individuals experiencing COVID-19-like symptoms at registration. You will be asked to remain in this area until you have secured an appointment with a testing facility, at which time you will be directed out of the building.
- AVS 68 will assist those presenting COVID-19-like symptoms to exit safely to get tested
[Click here to find a nearby testing sites.](#)
- A negative COVID-19 test must be presented at the Registration Desk for consideration to re-enter. Upon review, you may be granted approval to return to the meeting. No At-Home Test Results will be accepted.

AT THE HOTEL:

- Stay at the hotel (even if your symptoms are mild).
- Inform the owner/manager who will call a general practitioner (GP) and report your symptoms.
- Don't go to the GP or to a hospital accident & emergency unit on your own initiative.
- The GP will tell you by phone what to do, e.g. to go to your GP practice or a triage center for a test.
- Make a list of all the people you came in close contact with.

Did you test positive? A government employee will call you to start the contact tracing

OTHER RECOMMENDED GUIDELINES:

TRAVELING TO ATTEND:

- **U.S. Travel Restrictions:** Look for current restrictions on entering the US from different regions on the [CDC travel website](#).
- **Visa Requirements:** Depending on your country of departure, you may need to apply for a [National Interest Exception](#) for travel to the U.S.
- **Your Country of Departure's Restrictions and Quarantine Requirements:** Your country may have its own vaccination or testing policies for departure and/or return. It is your responsibility to check your local government agencies for any vaccination, testing, or quarantine requirements.
- **Airline Policies:** Check with your airline to make sure you understand their policies and requirements.
- **Should I purchase travel insurance?** Yes, although the risk of contracting COVID-19 at AVS 68 is negligible we strongly suggest that all attendees purchase travel insurance (if their employer does not currently provide coverage) with an Epidemic Coverage Endorsement that addresses the following situations: Trip Cancellation, if for example you must cancel your trip after being diagnosed with COVID-19.
 - Trip Interruption, if for example during your trip you are specifically named and individually ordered to quarantine (not including generally or broadly applicable quarantines).
 - Travel Delay, if for example you are denied boarding based on a suspicion that you are ill with an epidemic disease such as COVID-19.
 - Emergency Medical Care, if for example you are diagnosed with COVID-19 and need to be hospitalized while traveling.
 - Emergency Transportation, if for example you're diagnosed with an epidemic disease such as COVID-19 while you're traveling, and you require an emergency medical evacuation.

These policies are widely available from any number of companies that specialize in travel insurance.