

# 2022 ARO MidWinter Meeting COVID-19 Code of Conduct

**Your Guide to a Safe and Successful MidWinter Meeting**





# STRONGER TOGETHER

The success of the conference depends on everyone taking responsibility for following the guidelines at all times – starting now. Please read this carefully and understand how it applies to you – including screening, testing, restrictions on where you can go, hygiene, mask wearing and physical distancing measures.

We have learned that overcoming the continued challenges will require flexibility and commitment. We want to thank you sincerely for your resilience and solidarity. Together we will create a safe and wonderful conference experience.

# ARO COVID-19 Code of Conduct

## Before Leaving Home ARO Attendees Will Be Required To:

- Follow relevant guidance provided by the CDC and local health authorities.
- Adhere to government issued travel restrictions and guidance issued by the region you will be traveling to and the region you are traveling from.
- Evaluate your own health and that of people you are in close contact with; contact the meeting organizer if you have concerns.
- Stay home if you feel sick.

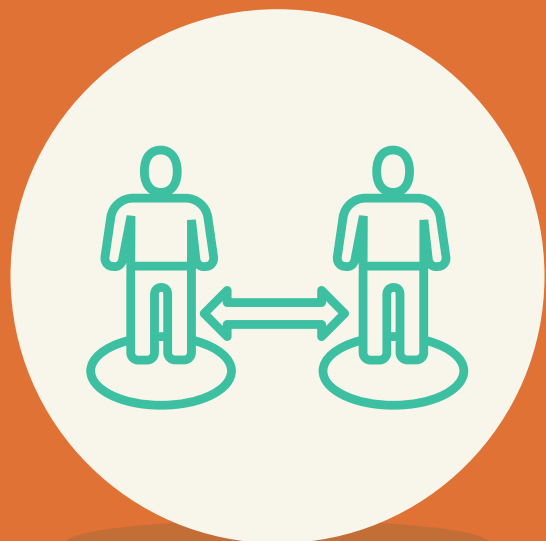
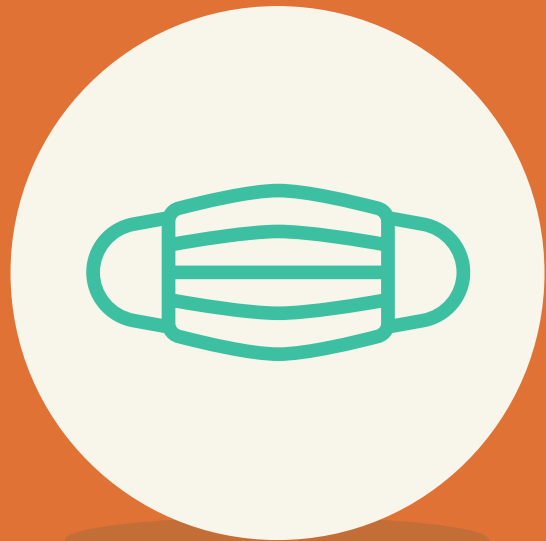
## On-site During the Event ARO Attendees Will Be Required To:

- **Wearing a face mask is mandatory at all times unless actively eating, drinking, or presenting at a lecture or panel. Poster presenters are strongly encouraged to wear a mask while presenting.**
- Wear your name badge at all times while in the convention center or other sponsored ARO events.
- Follow relevant guidance provided by the CDC, local health authorities and safety protocols deemed appropriate by the venue and Society.
- Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, or an alcohol-based sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.
- Avoiding touching eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Cover your nose and mouth when coughing or sneezing. Throw used tissues in the trash.
- Attendees that experience symptoms or start to feel ill onsite should quarantine in their guestroom immediately and contact ARO's Meetings Manager, Kristina Chazin, at 615.314.5153 to receive instructions on next steps. Any health concerns will be handled privately and discreetly for attendee privacy.

## Post-Conference:

- Each attendee is responsible for researching protocols in their local area and adhering to them. Based on current contact tracing advice from many health authorities, if you test positive for COVID-19 up to 14 days after returning home, please contact the meeting/event organizers to advise them.

*Masks are mandatory during the meeting!*



# Registration

## Registration:

Please visit the [Registration Tab](#) to register. Your login credentials are the same for this website as they are for the ARO website. Registration on site will **NOT** be allowed. Registration must be completed online in advance.

## Registration Requirements:

With the health and safety of our members, attendees, ARO staff, Convention Center staff, and the Hotel staff in mind, we have implemented the below changes to the 2022 MidWinter Meeting:

- All in-person attendees must be fully vaccinated and will be required to upload their completed vaccination card when they register for the meeting. Registrations will not be considered complete without proof of vaccination. There will be **NO** exceptions.
- All accompanying guests (including children) must provide proof of vaccination in order to enter the meeting space, including registration. Children (regardless of age) that have not been vaccinated may not attend any Society event in the hotel. There will be **NO** exceptions.

## Health and Safety Requirements:

We look forward to welcoming attendees to the in-person experience in San Jose, CA. The health and safety of attendees, presenters, staff, and local community is a priority for the Society.

Any attendee not complying with the mandated safety protocol will be asked to comply by staff. If there is repeated non-compliance, the attendee will be asked to leave the meeting space and will not be permitted to return.

# Before You Go - Domestic Travelers

ARO is following the guidelines and requirements mandated by Santa Clara County. As of September 20, 2021, this includes proof of vaccination and the wearing of masks at any city owned venues, including the San Jose Convention Center, where the 2022 MidWinter meeting is being held. In the event the CDC or local health authorities change requirements before the meeting, you may be asked to comply with additional safety measures. In the event that happens, ARO will notify all registered attendees of the updated requirements as they become available.

- [Santa Clara County Vaccination Requirements](#)
- [Santa Clara County Mask Requirements](#)

Please check your email prior to leaving for any updates from ARO. If you are not feeling well, stay home. Those visiting California should reference the local measures in place to keep travelers and residents safe, such as social distancing, and high standards of cleanliness in accordance with CDC and EPA guidelines. Masks are mandatory in all indoor spaces, regardless of vaccination status.

## For travelers on domestic flights:



At this time, airlines are not requiring vaccination cards to fly domestically. Be sure to follow your airlines regulations for travel.

## Checking into the hotel:



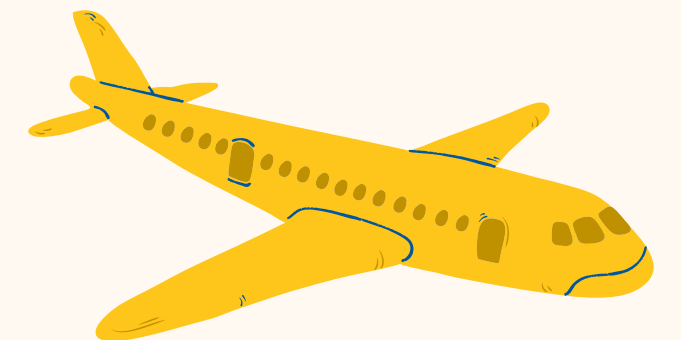
**Stay Informed:** Here are local public health and other community resources to help you stay informed with COVID-19 news:

- [Hilton San Jose](#)
- [Marriott San Jose](#)
- [Westin San Jose](#)

## Name badges:



**Name badges are required to enter the meeting space. Please be sure to pick up your name badge upon arrival at the hotel to minimize lines at registration. Only ARO attendees and guests registered in our system will be allowed in the meeting space.**



# Before You Go - International Travelers

ARO is following the guidelines and requirements mandated by Santa Clara County. As of September 20, 2021, this includes proof of vaccination and the wearing of masks at any city owned venues, including the San Jose Convention Center, where the 2022 MidWinter meeting is being held. In the event the CDC or local health authorities change requirements before the meeting, you may be asked to comply with additional safety measures. In the event that happens, ARO will notify all registered attendees of the updated requirements as they become available.

- [Santa Clara County Vaccination Requirements](#)
- [Santa Clara County Mask Requirements](#)

Please check your email prior to leaving for any updates from ARO. If you are not feeling well, stay home. Those visiting California should reference the local measures in place to keep travelers and residents safe, such as social distancing, and high standards of cleanliness in accordance with CDC and EPA guidelines. Masks are mandatory in all indoor spaces, regardless of vaccination status.

## For international travelers, regardless of vaccination status:

1

Required to provide evidence of either a negative PCR molecular or antigen COVID-19 test taken within 72 hours of arrival or documentation of recovering from COVID-19 in the last 90 days. Airlines will provide detailed needs prior to entering the U.S. Please see the [Airline Checklist](#) here.

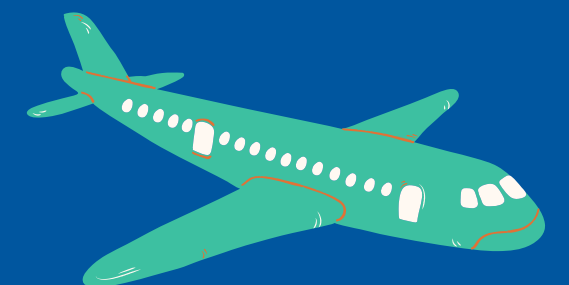
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Travelers (non-US citizens that live or have been physically present within the following countries within 14 days) from the below countries are currently prohibited from entering the United States. Those with dual or US citizenship are still permitted to enter. Click [here](#) to read more.

## Name badges:

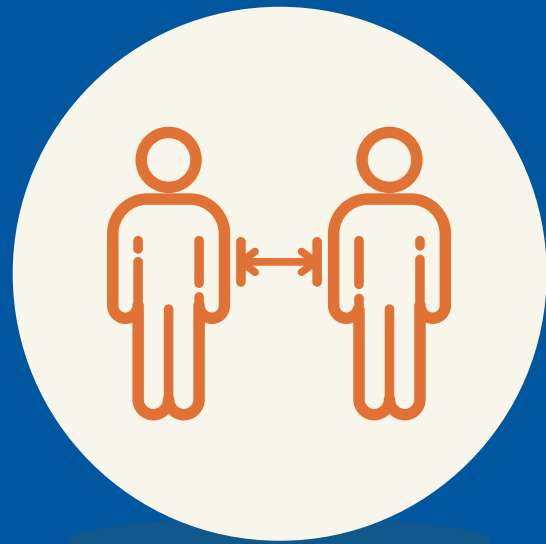
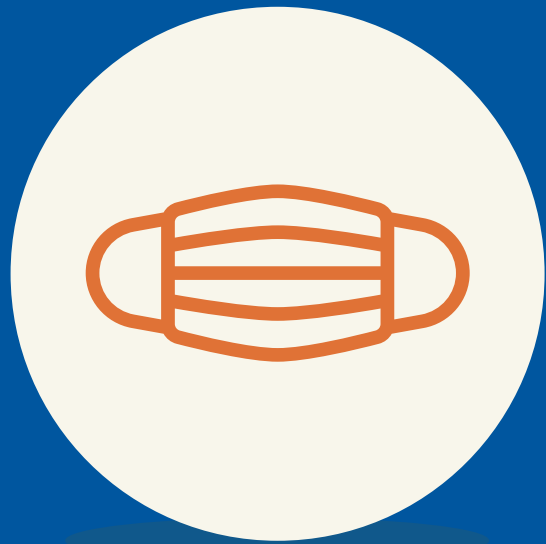
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Name badges are required to enter the meeting space. Please be sure to pick up your name badge upon arrival at the hotel to minimize lines at registration. Only ARO attendees and guests registered in our system will be allowed in the meeting space.





Masks are mandatory during the meeting!



# During the MidWinter Meeting

## ARO Mask and Social Distancing Requirement:

With the rising Delta Covid transmission rates and to ensure the safest possible in-person ARO MidWinter Meeting, masks will be required during the in-person meeting. Masks are mandatory except in the following limited circumstances:

1. When actively eating or drinking.
2. When presenting at a lecture or panel. We recommend poster presenters wear a mask while presenting.

With in-person meetings, having appropriate social distancing is challenging. ARO will work closely with the San Jose Convention Center to provide as much spacing in seating areas as possible.

Please note, there will be events during the meeting (meal or reception events) where attendees will be unmasked while eating. Attendees should use their best judgement and assess their comfort level when deciding to attend these events.

Masks are mandatory during the meeting!

## During the MidWinter Meeting Continued...

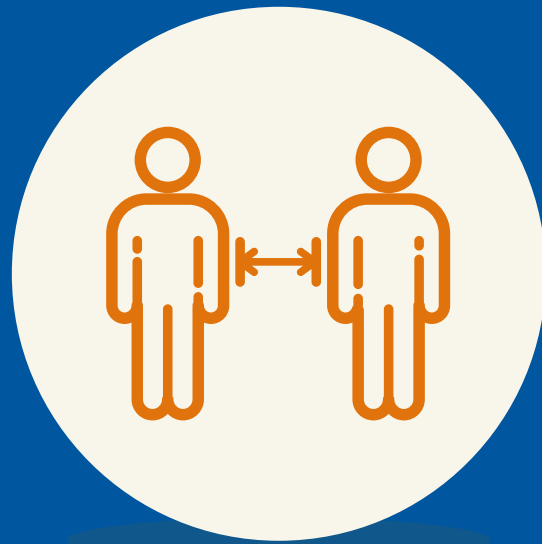
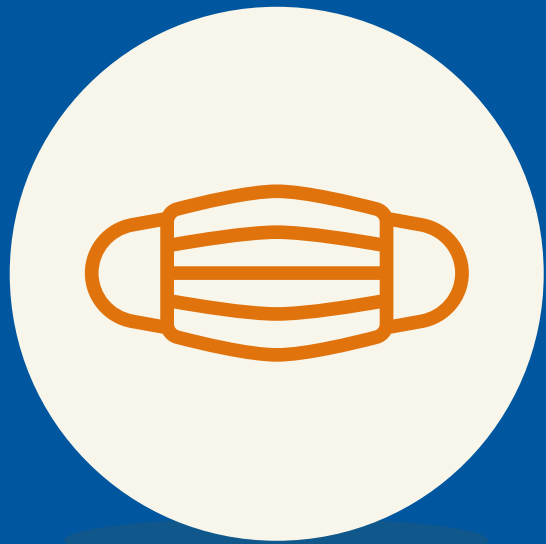
### If You Have Symptoms During the meeting:

Attendees that experience symptoms or start to feel ill onsite should quarantine in their guestroom immediately and contact ARO's Meetings Manager, Kristina Chazin, at 615.314.5153 to receive instructions on next steps. Any health concerns will be handled privately and discreetly for attendee privacy.

### In the Meeting Space:

Only those that are registered as an attendee for the ARO MidWinter Meeting (and therefore provided proof of vaccination at the time of registering) will be permitted in the Meeting Space. Staff will be checking badges at the meeting space entrance every day. Family or travel guests that are not registered with ARO are not allowed to enter the venue (including children).

As ARO continues to track the rate of COVID transmission and public health guidance, this policy may be updated accordingly. Any attendee not complying with the mandated safety protocols will be asked to comply by staff. **If there is refusal to comply or repeated non-compliance, the attendee will be asked to leave the convention center and not allowed to return.**





# Returning Home

Quarantine mandates, recommendations, and entry requirements may vary by state, country, and individual institutions. Each attendee is responsible for researching these protocols in their local area and adhering to them.

## **What if your country/state/institution requires a negative PCR test to return? Is ARO providing testing?**

ARO will not have onsite testing for departures. Attendees that are required to provide a negative test are responsible for arranging the test and transportation to and from the testing center.

## **Regardless of your vaccination status, if you get sick with fever, cough, or other symptoms of COVID-19, or test positive after returning home:**

- Isolate if you are sick. Stay home and take other precautions. Avoid contact with others until it's safe for you to end home isolation.
- Don't travel when you are sick.
- You might have COVID-19. If you do, know that most people are able to recover at home without medical care.
- Stay in touch with your doctor. Call before you go to a doctor's office or emergency room and let them know you might have COVID-19.
- If you have an emergency warning sign (including trouble breathing), get emergency medical care immediately.
- If you live in close quarters with others, take additional precautions to protect them.

Based on current contact tracing advice from many health authorities, if you test positive for COVID-19 up to 14 days after returning home, please contact the ARO Meetings Manager, Kristina Chazin at [kchazin@parthenonmgmt.com](mailto:kchazin@parthenonmgmt.com) so that contact tracing protocol can be initiated.

# FAQs

## What are the current measures for traveling to California?

ARO is following the guidelines and requirements mandated by Santa Clara County. As of September 20, 2021, this includes proof of vaccination and the wearing of masks at any city owned venues, including the San Jose Convention Center, where the 2022 MidWinter meeting is being held. In the event the CDC or local health authorities change requirements before the meeting, you may be asked to comply with additional safety measures. In the event that happens, ARO will notify all registered attendees of the updated requirements as they become available.

- [Santa Clara County Vaccination Requirements](#)
- [Santa Clara County Mask Requirements](#)

In-person registrants will be required to attest that they understand the current guidelines and will follow any additional mandates set forth prior to the meeting.

## Stay Informed: Here are local public health and other community resources to help you stay informed with COVID-19 news:

- [COVID-19 Data](#)
- [COVID-19 Self-Assessment](#)
- [Hilton San Jose](#)
- [Marriott San Jose](#)
- [Westin San Jose](#)

## How do I provide proof of vaccination and/or negative PCR test to enter the US

Anyone flying into the US will have to provide proof of a negative test or recovering from COVID within the past 90 days. Airlines will validate prior to boarding the plane using the Airline Checklist.

## What protocols do I need to follow when returning home?

Quarantine mandates, recommendations, and entry requirements may vary by state, country, and individual institutions. Each attendee is responsible for researching these protocols in their local area and adhering to them.

# FAQs

## What if my country/state/institution requires a negative PCR test to return? Is Aro providing testing?

No, ARO will not have onsite testing for departures. Attendees that are required to provide a negative test are responsible for arranging the test and transportation to and from the testing center.

## If I need to request a vaccine exemption; how do I proceed?

ARO requires all attendees be vaccinated to participate in-person. Those that are unable to get vaccinated are encouraged to attend the meeting virtually.

## Who will be permitted in the meeting space for the Meeting?

Only those that are registered as an attendee for the ARO MidWinter Meeting (and therefore provided proof of vaccination at the time of registering) will be permitted in the meeting space. Staff will be checking badges at the meeting space entrance every day. Family or travel guests that are *not registered with ARO* are not allowed to enter the venue (including children).

## Are masks required to attend the meeting?

Yes, ARO is following the guidelines and requirements mandated by Santa Clara County. As of September 20, 2021, this includes proof of vaccination and the wearing of masks at any city owned venues, including the San Jose Convention Center, where the 2022 MidWinter meeting is being held.

## If I am fully vaccinated, why do I have to wear a mask?

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends masks for all indoor activities regardless of vaccination status. Additionally, masks are mandated by Santa Clara County.

# FAQs

## **Will any physical distancing requirements be implemented?**

Although the session rooms at the venue are good sizes for the purpose of educational sessions, they were not designed with physical distancing in mind; we have limitations regarding distancing within the meeting space. ARO will make every effort to ensure enough space for attendees to distance themselves, but it will not be possible for all events.

## **I want to cancel my participation in the annual meeting; how do I get a refund?**

All cancelation requests must be received in writing to ARO via email at [headquarters@aro.org](mailto:headquarters@aro.org). Cancelations received on or before December 31, will be issued a refund less the \$50 processing fee. Cancelations requested after the 31st will not be issued a refund. Registration transfers to another individual is always honored.

## **If I cancel my participation in light of the new COVID-19 safety protocol, will ARO reimburse me for my travel including hotel accommodation?**

ARO will not reimburse any travel-related expenses to attendees or speakers. Attendees should contact the airlines and hotels directly for reimbursements.

## **Is there a chance that ARO may cancel the Annual Meeting?**

We are hopeful that we will be able to proceed in-person in February 2022 and make every effort to ensure this happens safely. However, as we monitor the COVID-19 conditions, we may need to pivot the meeting to a fully virtual experience.

## **What happens if I have symptoms while onsite at the Meeting?**

Attendees that experience symptoms or start to feel ill onsite should quarantine in their guestroom immediately and contact ARO's Meetings Manager, Kristina Chazin, at 615.314.5153 to receive instructions on next steps. Any health concerns will be handled privately and discreetly for attendee privacy.