

Vaccination Required to Attend AAFS Annual Conference

WHY?

Due to the current national COVID-19 pandemic and in light of the continued spread and recent Omicron variant, the AAFS Board of Directors has determined that **only vaccinated individuals will be permitted to attend our upcoming annual conference in Seattle in person**. The decision was made, in part, because of the logistical difficulties that would be encountered during conference week in monitoring the required testing results of those in the unvaccinated category. We believe that requiring vaccinations for in-person attendees also helps safeguard those attendees who may be immune compromised or who have health conditions that may have reduced the efficacy of their vaccinations.

ATTENDEE INFORMATION

For those who prefer to attend remotely, we will be providing some of the workshops and scientific sessions in our hybrid (virtual) option. Please feel free to make appropriate arrangements to attend any of these sessions via remote link.

For those of you who have already registered for the in-person conference, you may receive a refund of your full registration fee or refund of the difference in the amount of the in-person registration versus the hybrid one. Again, not all content will be provided with the hybrid option, but much of it will.

HOW TO PROVIDE PROOF OF VACCINATION

We understand and regret that this may be disappointing to some members, but we hope that you will understand the decision to require vaccinations is intended to afford protection for all attendees. For those who have received their full WHO- and CDC-approved COVID initial vaccinations, you will need to upload a copy of your vaccination card. If you have already registered for the meeting, you should receive a link directly from CrowdPass to complete this process. Otherwise, please click [HERE](#) to to upload your vaccine card. When you access the link, you will be asked to “Register”. Please understand that this is separate from your conference registration; it is just for uploading your vaccination card.

PRIVACY CONCERNS

The AAFS understands that vaccination records are “protected” health information and that your privacy may be of concern. We have taken the necessary precautions to ensure compliance with HIPAA guidelines. CrowdPass is a third-party entity that will be collecting the vaccination data. They are hosted on Heroku, which in itself regularly performs audits and maintains PCI, HIPAA, ISO, and SOC compliance. Their Validating Team are the only people who see vaccination and testing information and the health data is deleted after 28 days.

Additionally, the Board encourages those who are eligible to also obtain a booster shot prior to our conference. We look forward to seeing you in Seattle and hope that others will join us online to view some of our content via our on-demand or livestream options.