

APG COVID-19 PROTOCOL Effective February 2023

As we look forward to vibrant APG meetings in 2023, the health and safety of everyone who attends remains APG's top priority.

The federal Public Health Emergency (PHE) for COVID-19 in the US officially expires on May 11, 2023. Although the overall number of deaths, hospital admissions, and infections from COVID-19 is decreasing over time, the United States continues to experience an average of more than 400 deaths from COVID-19 each day. The [majority \(90%\) of these deaths](#) are occurring among older adults age 65-plus.

APG will not require APG regional meeting attendees to provide proof of COVID-19 vaccination. However, as a group representing health care providers, many of whom work in direct patient care settings, it is APG's responsibility and obligation to lead by example and to protect our groups' most vulnerable patients and their own provider workforce from harm.

To that point, APG's leadership continues to strongly encourage all attendees to be fully vaccinated and boosted for COVID-19. The [most recent research](#) demonstrates the value of updated bivalent booster shots in protecting against infection and illness from COVID. What's more, even mild cases of COVID infections have been linked to a range of [post-COVID conditions](#) – ample reason for all individuals to take steps to avoid these consequences.

APG will continue monitoring COVID-19 developments and will update our attendee recommendations based on CDC guidance as well as state and local requirements, as needed.

The following protocols are strongly recommended for Conference attendees:

- Wearing a face mask inside the meeting rooms. APG leadership believes wearing of masks is advisable and therefore is strongly encouraged, particularly in the event you have had any recent COVID exposure
- Washing hands regularly and using hand sanitizers where available.
- Isolating if you have had any recent direct exposure to COVID, or if you experience any of the following symptoms: fever, chills, new or worsening cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, new muscle aches, or headache.