



IMPORTANT HEALTH NOTICE
Vaccination Policy for 2021 Health Policy Conference

The American Academy of Nursing's (Academy) Board of Directors made the decision in June to host a hybrid 2021 Health Policy Conference that would allow participants to attend virtually or in-person based on their personal preference. Since this decision was made, the Academy has been continually monitoring the health and safety status and recommendations coming from local, state, and federal officials.

The Delta variant of COVID-19 and its high transmissibility rate requires a vigilant approach and therefore, the Academy will take additional measures to protect the health and safety of the in-person participants at the Academy's 2021 Health Policy Conference being held October 7 - 9, 2021 at the Marriott Marquis in Washington, DC. Specifically, we **WILL REQUIRE ALL REGISTERED ATTENDEES AND SPEAKERS TO BE FULLY VACCINATED TO PARTICIPATE IN-PERSON AT THE CONFERENCE. NO EXCEPTIONS WILL BE MADE.** All in-person attendees must have received the COVID-19 vaccine. For individuals who are unable to be vaccinated or who do not wish to be, the Academy is offering a robust virtual attendance option that mirrors the in-person content as an accommodation. In-person attendees will be required to upload their vaccination card through a secure portal. The Academy is partnering with Event Farm + CLEAR Health Pass for this process.

The Academy recognizes that the Health Policy Conference is an opportunity for shared learning in complex times as well as a space to offer meaningful recognition of new Fellows, Living Legends, Honorary Fellows, and Academy awardees. Therefore, **ANY GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE AT ANY PORTION OF THE CONFERENCE WILL ALSO BE REQUIRED TO BE FULLY VACCINATED.** Induction and Living Legends Ceremony ticket registration will be associated with each individual guest and the guest's vaccination card will also need to be uploaded through the secure portal. Out of an abundance of caution, it is for this reason that the Academy **cannot** allow children under the age of 12, nor those who are not vaccinated, to attend the Living Legends or Induction Ceremonies. Children, ages 12 – 18 who are vaccinated, are permitted to attend the in-person ceremonies. Parents, grandparents, or guardians will need to attest to the vaccination status of children aged 12 or above and the child will need to present a valid vaccination card at the conference before entering the ceremony.

Event Farm + CLEAR Health Pass will launch the portal for Academy conference attendees 10 days before the event. All registrants for the in-person event will be required to upload their vaccination card through this app, which is accessible on smartphones. In doing so, you will receive a confirmation from CLEAR Health Pass that you will need to show at the conference for validation by staff at registration.

Additionally, in-person attendees will be required to execute a liability waiver related to potential exposure. Academy staff will send this waiver to all in-person attendees to sign by October 1, 2021.

The Academy fully supports its community and appreciates the individual decisions that must be made in these extremely challenging times due to multiple factors, which we know are both professional and personal. *Therefore, the Academy will allow any registrant the opportunity to change their registration from in-person to virtual and virtual to in-person without penalty, up until October 1, 2021.* Please contact conferences@aannet.org to request a change in conference format.

Any individual who is taking additional measures to protect their family and community's public health or are not able to meet the vaccination requirement are encouraged to attend the conference virtually. Similar to 2020, the Academy will live stream the Induction and Living Legends Ceremonies publicly on our YouTube page.

The Academy continues to monitor and adjust our health and safety measures as the course of the pandemic unfolds. The Academy requires that all attendees and guests are familiar with and agree to uphold the public safety measures laid out by the District of Columbia's Health Department and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on [masking](#), [social distancing](#), [travel](#), [international travel](#), and [testing](#). Please note that in-person attendees who are traveling internationally to the United States for the event must refer to and adhere to their own country's guidance on COVID-19 protocols in relation to U.S. based travel and entry and will be required to show their proof of vaccination card on-site at the Marriott Marquis upon check-in at registration in order to participate in the conference since the CLEAR Health Pass does not have the ability to verify international vaccine cards. As stated prior, international attendees do have the opportunity to change their registration from in-person to virtual without penalty, up until October 1, 2021 by contacting conferences@aannet.org with the request.

The organization has a long-standing relationship and a current contract with the Marriott for this event. Therefore, we are working closely with the hotel staff to uphold the [measures](#) they have put in place as well as partner with us to uphold our commitment to the vaccination status of Academy attendees. The Academy has outlined below the measures already in place to protect the health and safety of in-person attendees:

- Currently, the [District of Columbia](#) requires masks for indoor events, regardless of your vaccination status.
- The hotel employees and attendees will maintain a firm commitment to practicing [social distancing](#). This includes creating space in the conference ballroom for strategic table positioning and seating at the various events.
- Based on current and projected registration, the overall event attendance will be approximately 40% the size of previous events.
- The Marriott Marquis has a routine process to sanitize publicly shared spaces.
- All Academy employees staffing the event have been fully vaccinated and have demonstrated their proof of vaccination.

Finally, the Academy encourages all attendees to get your annual flu vaccine before attending.

The Academy appreciates the support of the community as we take these measures to bolster public health. Thank you.

**Please note that at this time, the Marriott strongly encourages its employees to be vaccinated. The Marriott and the Academy cannot control the vaccination status of other hotel guests not affiliated with the event. Please refer to the Marriott's "[Commitment to Clean](#)" measures at their hotels to protect the health and safety of their guests.*

**The Academy is not liable for the vaccination status of any vendor staff or exhibitors who are working to help support the event. The Academy has shared our vaccination policy with all contracted vendors and exhibitors.*

**Additionally, the Academy will not regulate the affiliate receptions (which are not hosted by the Academy) held at the Health Policy Conference related to vaccination status. Since these are run by separate institutions and guest lists are managed by those institutions, vaccination status will be at their discretion. Receptions will be held to the DC Department of Health Guidelines and Marriott safety measures.*