



## Information on SAH's Response to COVID-19 and our Seattle Conference

UPDATE March 2, 2020

SAH is concerned about the international spread of the coronavirus COVID-19. Above all else we prioritize the safety and welfare of our conference attendees and staff. This is an emerging, rapidly evolving situation, and there is still much to learn about the unfolding situations both in the U.S. and internationally.

According to the CDC, "For the general American public, who are unlikely to be exposed to this virus at this time, the immediate health risk from COVID-19 is considered low. People in communities where ongoing community spread with the virus that causes COVID-19 has been reported are at elevated, though still relatively low, risk of exposure." In addition, the CDC states that "entry of foreign nationals from China and Iran has been suspended." And, although the CDC warns against nonessential travel to Italy, South Korea, Iran and China, there currently are no domestic travel advisories or travel restrictions within the U.S. Please read the [CDC Situation Summary](#) for additional details.

SAH is working with our partners at Visit Seattle and the Seattle Renaissance Hotel to monitor the situation closely and we will proactively keep our members updated about our plans.

Before the conference, we will continue to:

- Be in close contact with partners/venues to keep up-to-date on developments and advice from authorities.
- Monitor, and if necessary, share WHO and CDC advice with regard to the coronavirus.
- Communicate the latest news with all attendees and members.
- Provide links to the latest information from the authorities.

At the conference:

- We will continue to work closely with our partners and venues to monitor the situation.
- We will provide hand sanitizers and signage at the event in common areas like the registration desk and exhibition area.
- The Seattle Renaissance Hotel uses products to clean and sanitize that have been proven to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

The World Health Organization (WHO) and Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have issued guidelines to raise awareness about simple steps to help prevent the spread of respiratory viruses like coronavirus. Among them are actions that include:

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available.

If you are sick, to keep from spreading respiratory illness to others, you should:

- Stay home when you are sick. Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash. If you do not have a tissue, bend your arm and cough or sneeze into it. Do not use your hands.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

For the **most up-to-date information** on the coronavirus, please visit the following WHO and U.S. government sites below:

- World Health Organization advice to the public: <https://www.who.int/health-topics/coronavirus>
- Centers for Disease Control & Prevention COVID-19: <https://www.cdc.gov/covid19>
- Travel Health Notices from the CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/>
- Washington Department of Health: <https://www.doh.wa.gov/Emergencies/Coronavirus>
- King County: <https://kingcounty.gov/depts/health/communicable-diseases/disease-control/novel-coronavirus.aspx>

SAH will keep you informed in the event that we would need to make changes to the Seattle conference.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pauline Saliga". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "P".

Pauline Saliga  
Executive Director  
psaliga@sah.org