

AAFP Health and Safety Policy, 12/31/21

The health and safety of attendees is our **top** priority. As the COVID-19 situation continues to change, our health and safety policy ***is evolving*** to meet current conditions. We will be providing updates via email. As more large meetings and events are held nationally, AAFP continues to learn and adapt best practices to our Scientific Session. As an evidence-based organization, we also will continue to follow the science.

Of course the situation is now changing rapidly with the advent of the Omicron Variant. This 'Headline' was just issued 12/21/21 by Commissioner of Health of the City of Chicago and posted a little over a week ago on Chicago.gov:

Chicago Vaccine Requirement:

- “Effective January 3, any individual age 5 and older will be required to show proof of vaccination to dine indoors, visit gyms, or enjoy entertainment venues where food or drink are being served.”

From the Illinois Hotel and Lodging Association, the following salient point pertains to us:

- “The focus is on high-risk settings where customers are inclined to remove their face coverings. That said, conventions and meetings within hotels **where food and beverage is NOT served**, and customers keep their masks on the entire time, are exempt from this order. If ANY food or beverage is served at the event, the vaccination status of all guests must be confirmed.”

Reflecting these mandates, our Health and Safety Policy must now read:

1. Vaccination Required: All face-to-face attendees, including dentists, dental teams, guests, exhibitors, vendors, and AAFP Staff must be fully vaccinated. Each individual registrant must present proof of vaccination prior to checking in and receiving their credentials in Chicago.

2. Enhanced sanitation: AAFP will work with venue partners to ensure a high standard of hygiene and cleanliness throughout the Marriott.

3. Increased hand sanitization stations will be provided throughout the event.

The Marriott will have many safety measures in place that align with best practices. Your Academy will be actively involved in developing and implementing these measures.

4. Mask requirements: Based on the *current* requirements by the State of Illinois, individuals must wear masks in all indoor public places. **Masks will be required during all AAFP functions regardless of location.** Masks may only be removed briefly when actively eating or drinking.

We will continue to monitor science-based recommendations set forth by the CDC and the State of Illinois. You can also visit [Chicago.gov](https://www.chicago.gov) to read what the city and the State of Illinois is requiring up to the minute.

AAFP reserves the right to update this plan, as necessary, in accordance with science and federal, state, local, and Marriott guidelines.

Health & Safety FAQ's

1. Will my vaccination information be shared by the AAFP?

The answer is no. The AAFP is voluntarily receiving vaccination information from attendees themselves, for the sole purpose of making our February meeting as safe as possible for all.

2. Will Chicago Inspectors be able to view my uploaded Vaccine card, and will the AAFP keep it after the Scientific Session?

No. We are only required to show that we have a protocol in place for vaccine verification, not individual vaccine cards. Chicago.org states that "Each organization shall develop and keep a written record describing their protocol for implementing and enforcing the requirements of this order. Such written record shall be available for inspection of any city official authorized to enforce this order". All records maintained by AAFP regarding vaccination status will be deleted/destroyed within 3 days of the end of the meeting." – or sooner. The Commissioner of the Chicago Business Affairs and Consumer Protection Department, Miguel Campos, stated in a Webinar 12/29, that "the written protocol saying we have a plan is all we need to show proof of compliance. We do NOT have to log vaccine status of guests".

3. Who will be required to verify vaccination status for the AAFP Annual Scientific Session?

All face-to-face attendees, including dentists, dental team, guests, exhibitors, vendors, and AAFP Staff.

4. What if I've had COVID-19 and have natural immunity?

Based on Chicago's mandate, this does not satisfy their requirement for our attendees, and the type of meeting we hold.

5. What if I have medical condition(s) or religious beliefs that do not allow for COVID-19 vaccination?

Based on Chicago's mandate, this does not satisfy their requirement for our attendees, and the type of meeting we hold.

6. What if I received my vaccination in another country?

If you received your vaccination in another country, please bring a government-issued photo ID and your official vaccination card. Our Registration team will verify the details in person.