COVID-19 Statement (updated August 12, 2022)

HERO and the Omni Amelia Island Resort in Fernandina Beach, FL are taking measures to ensure we protect our colleagues, speakers, sponsors, guests, and staff from COVID-19. We believe that our protocol will provide everyone with assurance and confidence that health and safety are our number one priority for this event. Communication between all stakeholders is a critical success factor in this program achieving its overall objective. This page outlines the measures we are taking in response to COVID-19 and how we plan to implement these steps. The guidelines in this document are based on information currently available regarding the behavior and characteristics of COVID-19, the status of testing capacity, vaccine availability, and local or state guidelines with respect to large gatherings. As more clarity of these variables emerges, it is expected that these guidelines may need to be adjusted accordingly.

Vaccinations
- Following guidance from the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC), individuals planning to attend Forum22 in person will be required to attest to having received the COVID-19 vaccination.

[Stay Up to Date with Your COVID-19 Vaccines | CDC](#)
[Small and Large Gatherings | CDC](#)

Attestation for Forum22 Registration
- **Vaccine Certification:** By typing my name below, I certify that I have been fully vaccinated against COVID-19. Full vaccination means it has been two weeks since receiving both doses of either the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine, or after the single dose of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine. **Date of last COVID-19 Vaccination:**

Exceptions:
- HERO will review requests for exceptions to this policy on an individual case-by-case basis.
- An exception may be granted under the following circumstances: **Proof of medical exemption**.
- **Individuals who receive an exception will be required to self-test before arrival and daily while onsite.** These individuals will also be **required to mask** throughout the Forum22 events.

Physical Distancing
- **Crowd Density Guidelines:** Crowd density guidelines are set in accordance with local and federal
- regulatory guidance at the time of the event.

- **Registration:** Through an increased use of technology, we plan to minimize queuing and contact during the registration process.

- **Conference Rooms:** All general session and breakout room seating will follow local and federal
- distancing guidance.

- **Food & Beverage:** Where possible, we will favor serviced buffets, food served pre-packaged or in closed containers.

- **Social Functions:** All gatherings will follow the current regulatory guidance. Per CDC guidelines, we strongly advise wearing a mask when indoors and/or in situations when social distancing is not possible.

Cleaning & Hygiene
- **Targeted Cleaning:** HERO will disinfect the podium, audio visual equipment, and sponsor tables regularly throughout the event. The use of distributing physical, promotional materials will be limited with most materials being shared digitally.

Protect & Detect
- **Facemasks:** Facemasks are voluntary for Forum22 attendees; based on CDC guidelines, we recommend masking when indoors and/or when social distancing is not possible. Illness and Contact Tracing: HERO strongly recommends that anyone feeling sick stay away from Forum22 and practice CDC quarantine guidelines. If you test positive for COVID-19 during or immediately after Forum22, please contact HERO. COVID-19 Quarantine and Isolation | CDC

Communication
- **Forum Website & Apps:** Guidelines for COVID protocol will be communicated on the Forum website and app and immediate or urgent messages sent via the mobile app.

- **Handouts:** To minimize touchpoints, there will be minimal handouts available. Documents will be available upon request, as well as available to download from our Forum website.

- **Pre-Event Messaging:** Messaging in advance of the Forum will communicate key pieces of information, including updates from global and local health organizations, event admission policies, hygiene briefings, and health protection measures, among other items.