

Exhibitor FAQs

1. Are vaccines required?

Proof of full COVID-19 vaccination as [defined by the CDC](#) will be required for all conference participants (attendees, exhibitors, vendors and staff) prior to March 4, 2022. Vaccination credentialing will be managed by the CLEAR Health Pass app. Additional information about submitting your vaccination records will be provided in the coming weeks.

2. How are you defining fully vaccinated?

AORN is following CDC guidelines that defines fully vaccinated as completing the primary series of a COVID-19 vaccine. A primary series consists of:

- 2 doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine;
- 2-dose series of an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine (Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna);
- Or a single-dose COVID-19 vaccine (Johnson & Johnson's Janssen vaccine)

3. Will AstraZeneca vaccines be accepted for international participants?

Yes, an international vaccination record with a 2-dose AstraZeneca series will be accepted onsite (per the CDC list of accepted vaccines for noncitizens and nonimmigrants: [Requirement for Proof of COVID-19 Vaccination for Air Passengers | CDC](#)). Onsite in New Orleans, we'll have a Help Desk/International Traveler Desk to process participants with international vaccination cards.

4. Are there health and religious exemptions for exhibitor staff?

No. All participants must be fully vaccinated, as defined by the CDC, prior to March 4.

5. Do you anticipate a drop in attendance due to the vaccine requirement?

No. A recent study by the American Nurses Foundation found that 92% of nurses have received a COVID-19 vaccine.

American Nurses Foundation. (2021). *Mental Health and Wellness Survey 3*. [Mental Health & Wellness Survey 3 American Nurses Foundation \(nursingworld.org\)](#)

6. How can unvaccinated nurses participate in AORN Expo?

Unvaccinated attendees will have the option to participate in our virtual conference experience.

7. Will rapid testing be required for entry to AORN Expo 2022?

Not currently. AORN will release more information if rapid testing becomes a requirement for entry.

8. Are masks required?

AORN will continue to require masks if community transmission levels in Orleans Parish are moderate or greater, as determined by the CDC ([CDC COVID Data Tracker](#)).

Exhibitor FAQs

9. Will exhibit booths be limited in capacity?

Social distancing will not be required in booths.

10. How is sanitation being handled?

Exhibitors are encouraged to properly clean and sanitize nightly and between demonstrations and attendee use. Order forms for cleaning will be in the Exhibitor Service Manual or exhibitors may sanitize booth surfaces themselves.

11. Will food and beverage be allowed in the Expo Hall?

Yes, Centerplate, the Convention Center's exclusive food service provider, will provide food and beverage service following food safety protocols. All Food and Beverage managerial staff are Servsafe certified, ensuring that the regulations provided by the Louisiana Department of Health are strictly adhered to, inclusive of sanitation requirements.

12. Are giveaways permitted?

Distribution of sales materials and samples as well as giveaways are allowed, following giveaway guidelines in the Rules & Regulation.

13. What safety precautions is the Convention Center taking?

The New Orleans Ernest N. Morial Convention Center has achieved GBAC STAR™ accreditation through the Global BioRisk Advisory Council, which certifies that the facility is implementing the industry's highest standards of cleaning, disinfection, and infectious disease prevention and is the leading standard of prepared facilities. All air exchange units in the MCCNO are equipped with MERV 14 filters.

14. Any requirements to booth configuration or design?

All booth configuration, construction, traffic and arrangement requirements are subject to change based on public health recommendations and guidance at the time of the event. Exhibitors will be notified in writing of all COVID-19 and public health-related gathering, traffic, face covering and distancing requirements, all of which are subject to change prior to and during the event at AORN's sole discretion. Exhibitors failing to adhere to these requirements may be refused admittance or expelled in AORN and/or Show Management's discretion.

15. What are the local guidelines for restaurants, bars, attractions, etc?

Proof of vaccination for all eligible individuals 5 years and older, or a negative COVID-19 test within 72 hours, will be required at most indoor venues in Orleans Parish and outdoor events where more than 500 people are in attendance. You can read more about requirements [here](#).

16. Was the New Orleans Ernest N. Morial Convention Center impacted by Hurricane Ida?

The Convention Center sustained some water intrusion and light roof damage. The Center has a restoration company under contract which has been activated and work is underway.

Exhibitor FAQs

17. Will there be a Virtual / Hybrid Conference in 2022?

All exhibitors in New Orleans will receive a complimentary presence in the virtual experience. Planning is underway and details will be shared later this fall. At this time, all exhibitors must have an exhibit space in New Orleans to participate in the virtual experience.

18. What is the expected attendance?

Nurse attendance is expected to be 30% pre-pandemic years – 1,500-1,800. This is in line with what other healthcare shows are experiencing due to COVID-19.

19. Will the Reverse Trade Show event occur?

Yes! The Reverse Trade Show is scheduled for Sunday, March 20.

20. Will there be in-booth education at Expo 2022?

Yes! In-booth education remains a popular engagement opportunity for exhibitors and attendees alike. Please reach out to Andi Dewes (adewes@pfiedler.com) for more information and to explore options around offering in-booth education.

