Health and Safety
Information and Policies

This information is subject to change.
Information as of August 2, 2021.

ASN is following best practices recommended by the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and will abide by the legal mandates from the state of California at the time of ASN Kidney Week 2021 (“Kidney Week”). The health and safety measures will be updated here as planning for Kidney Week continues. If you cannot or choose not to comply with the in-person/onsite health and safety requirements, we encourage you to explore Kidney Week’s virtual content.

Vaccination Attestation

In accordance with the current State of California’s mandates for meetings and events over 5,000 people, ALL in-person attendees, exhibitors, staff, vendors, and all other participants will be required to certify and attest that they are fully vaccinated or will be fully vaccinated by November 1, 2021 prior to Kidney Week for COVID-19 OR that they have had a negative COVID-19 test taken within 72 hours prior to attending Kidney Week. Because Kidney Week 2021 is an international meeting that will take place in the United States, ASN can only recognize vaccines that are fully-approved or authorized for use during a public health emergency by the US Food and Drug Administration’s Emergency Use Authorization or by the World Health Organization’s Emergency Use Listing. Vaccination status must be provided at the time of registration for Kidney Week and you may be required to provide proof of vaccination or proof of a negative COVID-19 test in-person onsite.

For the purposes of right of entry to Kidney Week, a person is considered fully vaccinated:

• 2 weeks after their second dose in a 2-dose series, such as the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines, or
• 2 weeks after a single-dose vaccine, such as Johnson & Johnson’s Janssen vaccine.
• Full vaccination of another vaccine listed on the WHO Emergency Use Listing.
Masks

Effective July 27, 2021, the CDC has updated its face coverings/mask guidance for fully vaccinated people, given new evidence on the B.1.617.2 (Delta) variant currently circulating the United States. The added recommendation is for fully vaccinated people to wear a mask in public indoor settings in areas of substantial or high transmission. Currently, San Diego County is in an area of high transmission. Due to this current guidance, ASN will require all participants, whether vaccinated or not, at Kidney Week 2021 to wear face coverings/masks while indoors. If this guidance is updated, ASN will re-evaluate and post additional information by September 15, 2021. Please note that this is subject to change.

Physical Distancing

All Kidney Week participants should expect physical distancing in high-traffic areas, meeting rooms, exhibit floor, and event space in accordance with local and venue regulations. Kidney Week will adhere to capacity standards in accordance with local and state authorities to control the density of the exhibit floor and meeting rooms.

Through increased use of technology and pre-mailing badges, Kidney Week aims to avoid lines and entry transactions. There will be registration hours on Wednesday, November 3, 2021, prior to the start of Kidney Week to reduce lines on Thursday, November 4, 2021. Attendees and exhibitors are encouraged to register online before the meeting and have their badge mailed to them or utilize the Self Registration kiosks available onsite. Registration counters will have a partition between participants and registration staff.

Attendee/audience seating may be modified to allow for compliance with reduced capacity guidelines, and room sets may be modified to accommodate increased spacing. Social distancing cards will be available at ASN Services and ASN Registration for participants to put on the seats next to them to encourage social distancing. Multiple sessions in each time frame will be fully live-streamed to virtual participants, and all in-person and virtual participants will have access to this content.

Health Monitoring

Protocols for care will be in place should a participant present COVID-19 symptoms during the event.

Kidney Week will have in-person/onsite qualified first aid responders for any immediate medical needs or medically related questions.
Assumption of Risk and Waiver of Claims

Participants have the choice to attend the Kidney Week either in-person or virtually. Those choosing to attend Kidney Week in-person must agree to the terms of this Assumption of Risk and Waiver of Claims (“Waiver”) during the registration process.

By agreeing to this Waiver, participants acknowledge that they have made the decision to attend Kidney Week in-person with the full understanding of the inherent risks of such decision and acknowledge and agree to these risks. Please see the full Assumption of Risk and Waiver of Claims here.

International Attendance at Kidney Week

There are currently four Presidential proclamations currently that suspend entry into the United States of all noncitizens who were physically present in any of 33 counties during the 14-day period preceding their entry or attempted entry into the United States. They are Presidential Proclamation 9984 (China); Presidential Proclamation 9992 (Iran); Presidential Proclamation 10143 (Schengen Area, United Kingdom, Ireland, Brazil, and South Africa); and Presidential Proclamation 10199 (India). More information on these proclamations is posted at the following links: COVID-19 Travel Restrictions and CDC Information on COVID-19 Travelers from Other Countries. This information continues to be updated and is subject to change.

Food and Beverage

Water bottles will be encouraged, and water bottle fill stations will be placed in strategic locations throughout the San Diego Convention Center. These areas are part of the continual cleaning and disinfecting routine during event hours and overnight. Water coolers will be removed due to potential for contamination.

Food and beverage services will be modified to minimize contact and restrict any self-servicing.

The convention center’s food and beverage partner, Centerplate, earned an additional hygiene verification label, Rise SAFE, specifically for catering operations. Rise SAFE is managed by Centerplate’s parent company, Sodexo, and Bureau Veritas, an independent world leader in testing, inspection, and certification.
Cleaning and Disinfecting

The San Diego Convention Center is actively doing the following cleaning and disinfecting protocols:

- A continual cleaning and disinfecting routine will be enforced throughout the convention center during event hours and overnight, especially in high-touch areas. Cleaning and disinfecting products that are on the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)-approved list will be used to combat the spread of COVID-19.
- Disinfectant wipe dispensers will be strategically placed near commonly touched objects.
- HVAC systems are carefully managed to provide the appropriate amount of indoor air circulation and proper outside makeup air.
- Restrooms will be regularly and thoroughly disinfected during event hours and include the following touch-free items: soap dispensers, sink faucets, toilet fixtures, paper towel and toilet paper dispensers.

Hand sanitizer stations will be provided near building entrances, meetings rooms, and lobbies. Touch-free dispensers will be used wherever possible, and a schedule will be established for re-filling the stations.

Hotels

All hotels within the Kidney Week hotel block have implemented the following measures:

- Heightened cleaning protocols for high-traffic areas such as the front desk, fitness centers and pools, as well as other high-touch surfaces throughout the hotel, using hospital-grade disinfectant approved by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to combat the spread of COVID-19.
- Reduced contact at check-in and digital check-in provided.
- Furniture arrangements designed to encourage appropriate social distancing in accordance with CDC guidelines.
- Housekeeping “on-demand” options that allows guests to request delivery of additional toiletries, towels, linens, or coffee without having a housekeeper enter the room.
• Changes in breakfast offerings, with many hotels replacing their breakfast buffet option with pre-packaged breakfast items.

• New service approaches to buffets, banquets, and contactless or designated pickup areas for room service.

Information on each hotel’s individual protocols is available when housing opens on August 11, 2021 on our website: www.asn-online.org/kidneyweek.

Shuttle Buses

Kidney Week’s shuttle bus partner, SEAT Planners, has developed “Clean SEAT” guidelines that meet or exceed current CDC recommendations for the travel and event industry. SEAT Planners partners with local operators that ensure drivers are healthy and symptom-free before leaving the operator’s yard. Drivers will clean high-touch areas throughout the day using recommended personal protective equipment (PPE) and EPA/CDC disinfectants.

Attendees utilizing shuttle bus will be required to practice posted personal safety guidelines set by the CDC considerations for travelers. Hand sanitizer and masks will be available.