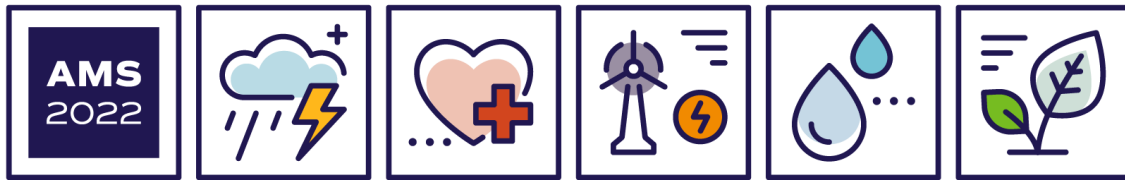


# AMERICAN METEOROLOGICAL SOCIETY



102nd ANNUAL MEETING | HOUSTON | **23-27 JANUARY**

## Commitment to Care

From its inception, the AMS has been committed to health and safety. As we continue to plan for the 102nd Annual Meeting, our highest priority remains the health and safety of everyone attending the meeting as well as the community of Houston, Texas. As such, we are closely monitoring news and guidance from the [Centers for Disease Control & Prevention](#), the [World Health Organization](#), and local health agencies regarding travel and events. We will be using this news and guidance, as well as the results of several attendee surveys, to evolve our Commitment to Care and to develop options for virtual participation (will be announced and posted soon). We encourage you to consult the 102nd Annual Meeting Commitment to Care and Virtual Participation pages often as the meeting approaches.

### Wellness

- Health and Safety Policy
  - All attendees (presenters, program chairs, session chairs, exhibit booth staff, volunteers, attendees, guests, press, AMS staff and partners) will be required to agree to the AMS 102nd Annual Meeting Health and Safety Policy (will be announced and posted soon) before completing their registration.
- On-Site Medical Care
  - We will have a healthcare partner available onsite at the George R Brown Convention Center to address the healthcare needs of attendees who become ill during the 102nd Annual Meeting.

### Vaccination

- AMS is a scientific organization and we would expect all those who affiliate with it to adhere to the principles of science. As such, while we will not require attendees to the meeting to have been vaccinated against Covid-19, we would

expect that our attendees would have followed the science and received their vaccinations unless they had an underlying condition that prevented it. We would also expect that anyone who was not fully vaccinated, for any reason, or who had concerns related to their potential susceptibility to variants of the virus, to wear a mask in any public setting. We will not be checking the vaccination status of any attendee, but we rely on the integrity of the members of our community to know and adhere to CDC protocols.

### **Masking**

- We plan to set mask requirements in accordance with guidance from the [Centers for Disease Control & Prevention](#). As of publication (21 July 2021), the CDC has stated that it is not mandatory for individuals who are fully vaccinated against Covid-19 to wear a mask indoors or outdoors.
- Regardless of the guidance from the CDC, we encourage attendees who are unvaccinated, immunocompromised, or who feel more comfortable wearing a mask to do so.
- We expect all attendees to be supportive of a “mask friendly” environment at the meeting so no one feels intimidated about wearing a mask or feels judged by those who choose not to.
- An acceptable mask is: made of at least 2 layers of breathable fabric or hospital grade material, fully covers the nose, nostrils, mouth and fits firmly under the chin, and fits snugly, but comfortably against the side of the face.
- Disposable masks will be available at the AMS Info Desk at the George R Brown Convention Center and the Hilton of the Americas.

### **Physical Distancing**

- AMS staff members and the Overall Planning Committee, in consultation with event industry leaders and venue officials, are currently considering several options to reduce crowding and congestion throughout the 102nd Annual Meeting space. There will also be signage throughout to remind attendees to practice physical distancing when possible.
  - Schedule
    - The schedule for the AMS 102nd Annual Meeting includes longer breaks and an additional poster viewing (on Thursday) to reduce attendee crowding and congestion.
  - Seating
    - Session rooms will be set with a mix of seating options offering different distances so that attendees can choose a seat that fits their comfort level.
    - Chairs set around tables at food and beverage functions will be set according to CDC distancing guidelines.
  - Exhibit Booths

- Exhibitors will be required to design their booth spaces according to CDC and WHO guidelines.
  - We are asking exhibitors to consider how they will offer giveaways for products and hosted events in ways that will help us with crowd control and social distancing at receptions and through exhibit hours.
- Food and Beverage Functions
  - Food and beverage items will be individually packaged and if not, will be served by an attendant.

### **Contact Comfort Indicators**

- Attendees will be provided with three colored bracelets and stickers which they can use to indicate their personal level of contact comfort to others while at the AMS 102nd Annual Meeting (optional):
  - Red: Please keep your distance
  - Yellow: Elbow/fist bumps are ok
  - Green: Handshakes/hugs are welcome

### **Touch Points**

- Registration and badge pickup will take place at self-serve kiosks. Attendees will print their own badges on-demand in the registration area at the George R Brown Convention Center.
- Concessions sold at the George R Brown Convention Center can be purchased with cashless options.

### **Cleanliness**

- Air Filtration
  - The George R Brown Convention Center:
    - Features Merv-13 air filters
    - Air is recirculated 6 times per hour
    - Blowers are run daily to reduce air humidity
    - Control system allows emergency override of all damper positions to 100% clean
    - “Catch and Kill” Biodefense Air-Filtration System installed in the General Assembly Theater on Level 3.
  - Hilton of the Americas
    - Details will be posted soon
  - Marriott Marquis
    - Details will be posted soon
- Hand Sanitizer

- There are multiple hand sanitizing stations located throughout the AMS 102nd Annual Meeting space.
- Cleaning
  - All AMS 102nd Annual Meeting hotels and venues have increased cleaning/disinfecting of high touch surfaces such as handles, buttons, and handrails.
  - Each exhibiting organization will be responsible for the cleanliness and sanitization of their space. We recommend products and instruments be wiped down between demonstrations and have hand sanitizer available for those visiting the booth space.
- Our Hotels and Venues
  - Information on Health and Safety in Houston can be found [here](#).
  - The George R Brown Convention Center's Health and Safety Plan can be found [here](#).
  - Information on the Hilton CleanStay Program can be found [here](#).
  - Marriott's Commitment to Clean can be found [here](#).

(Updated 21 July 2021)