RIMS UPDATE ON THE CORONAVIRUS - MARCH 6, 2020

The health, safety and well-being of our community is our highest priority. RIMS is closely monitoring the coronavirus outbreak and will continue to provide weekly updates.

As of March 6, 2020, RIMS 2020 is proceeding as scheduled May 3-6, 2020 in Denver, Colorado. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has publicly deemed the health risk of coronavirus for the general American public to be low at this time. However, to ensure the safety of attendees, RIMS will incorporate guidance from the World Health Organization’s newly released Public Health for Mass Gatherings: Key Considerations report.

TRAVELING TO DENVER

At this time, RIMS is accommodating cancellations from attendees travelling from countries designated as a Level 3 alert by the CDC. Updates can be found on the CDC website. Attendees should not travel to RIMS 2020 if they are feeling unwell. Attendees should monitor the CDC travel guidelines prior to their departure.

While Denver International Airport (DEN) is not one of the 20 airports being screened by the CDC, it has made several proactive enhancements to its facility and cleaning procedures.

RIMS is providing guidelines and updates to conference attendees at registration that include health procedures and tips. All registrants will receive printed copies of safety measures in their welcome materials.

SANITATION MEASURES & ON-SITE PREPAREDNESS PLAN

Colorado Convention Center has enhanced its disinfectant procedures to include nightly and day cleanings during move-in and throughout conference, that adhere to the CDC and the World Health Organization (WHO) guidance.

The Colorado Convention Center/ASM Global adheres to the recommendations set forth in the U.S. EPA’s Emerging Pathogen Policy regarding cleaning disinfectants effective against the Coronavirus (COVID-19). The Convention Center is following these advised protocols:

• Cleaning all “high-touch” surfaces everyday. High-touch surfaces include all door handles, door knobs, push bars, counters, tabletops, benches, bathroom fixtures, toilets, phones, keyboards and tablets.

• Increasing the number of hand sanitation sites available in the Colorado Convention Center and surrounding RIMS 2020 venues, providing alcohol-based hand sanitizer for all attendees and staff.

• Using proper hand hygiene by either washing hands or using hand sanitizer before and after performing a cleaning task.

There will be medical staff on site at the Colorado Convention Center. They will be trained in recognizing symptoms of COVID-19 and will be staffed by a trained medical professional with direct access to the Denver Department of Public Health & Environment.

Ring-down phones will be added to A & F lobby locations connecting a caller directly with the paramedic office.

Additionally, a Denver Health Urgent Care facility is one block from the convention center.

Questions regarding RIMS 2020 can be sent to RIMS2020@rims.org

www.RIMS.org/RIMS2020

#RIMS2020
Centerplate and Food Preparation: Centerplate/Sodexo is coordinating globally to manage the impact of COVID-19 and protect employees, clients and consumers. Existing rules for food safety, personal hygiene and infection control will be rigorously followed in order to minimize risk. Centerplate will be managing and communicating with all staff in daily pre-shift and safety meetings that are held in every department. Gloves will be worn by all staff prepping and serving food.

RIMS 2020 will be a handshake-free meeting.

HOUSING
The Denver hotel community will closely monitor the COVID-19 situation, remain vigilant and follow recommended procedures and protocols from various health organizations, including the WHO, the CDC, Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment, and other local authorities, in an effort to ensure the continued safety & wellbeing of guests and colleagues.

SITUATION MONITORING
RIMS staff is meeting on a regular basis with key conference stakeholders, including Visit Denver (the local visitors’ bureau), the Colorado Convention Center, and the agencies to evaluate any risk in the host city.

RIMS is also actively monitoring CDC and WHO updates for further information.

This RIMS COVID-19 Update page will be reviewed and updated as needed weekly leading up to RIMS 2020.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES
Denver Health (Hospital)
777 Bannock Street (1.03 miles)
Denver, CO 80204-4597
(303) 436-6000

Denver Health Urgent Care
1545 California St 0.1 miles (1 blk)
(303)-602-6500

Visit Denver:
https://www.denver.org/

Denver Department of Public Health:
www.denvergov.org/content/denvergov/en/environmental-health.html

City & County of Denver Office of Emergency Management:
https://www.denvergov.org/content/denvergov/en/office-of-emergency-management.html

Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment:
https://www.colorado.gov/cdphe

Center for Disease Control:
https://www.cdc.gov/

World Health Organization:
https://www.who.int/

Questions regarding RIMS 2020 can be sent to RIMS2020@rims.org