

## USOPC Event Hosting Information

As of March 9, 2020, the CDC reported 423 confirmed COVID-19 cases in the US, with 19 total deaths. COVID-19 is now present in 35 states, including New York. This statistic will change on a daily basis. Although the CDC doesn't restrict domestic travel for healthy individuals, they do recommend those at higher risk for complications associated with COVID-19 (ie: older age, medical conditions such as lung disease, heart disease, diabetes, etc) avoid non-essential travel. While the CDC and WHO don't define "older age", using a 60 year-old cut off seems reasonable. Therefore, at least a certain proportion of people attending your event will meet their "high risk" criteria. Furthermore, multiple organizations have implemented restrictions on non-essential travel and large sports events/conferences are being modified (e.g., no spectators), cancelled or postponed. This is the context in which your event organizing committee is making their decision.

Currently, the CDC and WHO aren't recommending that all large gatherings or events should be canceled. However, they do suggest following the recommendations provided in their mass gathering planning documents ([CDC](#), [WHO](#)). If you choose to proceed with the event, you should review and follow these guidelines. Definitely closely monitor the CDC, State Department, Department of Homeland Security, and State/Local public COVID-19 websites. Some steps you should consider taking prior to and during the event include:

- Contact the county and state Department of Public Health and work closely with them when planning the event
- Have your medical team work closely with emergency medical services and a local hospital to develop an emergency action plan that includes steps for the identification, referral, and transportation to and communication with the hospital for people who may have COVID-19
  - Identification should include a screening process that can be used by medical staff to identify individuals at risk for COVID-19 including recent (<14 days) travel to a [country designated as a Level 3 risk](#) by the CDC or close contact with an individual with diagnostically confirmed COVID-19
- Ensure proper personal protective equipment (PPE) is available for medical staff who may evaluate people with potential COVID-19, and that they are properly trained in its use
- Ensure biohazard waste bins are available for disposal of PPE
- Prior to the event, send an informational flyer to all participants educating them on infection prevention procedures (see attached flyer "prevention" section) and a list and contact information for local healthcare resources including a hospital emergency room
- Encourage those who feel sick, even if their symptoms are just mild, to stay home
- Encourage those who recently (less than 14 days) traveled to a higher risk area as defined by the [CDC's travel page](#) to consider not coming to the event
- Provide a link to the [CDC website travel recommendation page](#) and encourage them to check the page prior to leaving for the event and follow the CDC's recommendations
- Provide hand sanitizer dispensers at the entrance to the venue and in other locations throughout the venue
- Make an announcement at the beginning of the event and intermittently during the event on infection prevention recommendations and encouraging those who are feeling ill to return to their hotel room or home