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American Heart Association.

Quality of Care & Outcomes Research

Thank you for your ongoing support and interest in participating with the American Heart Association through a variety of science engagements and learning opportunities. Some of you have expressed thoughts and concerns regarding the evolving situation involving the COVID-19 virus and potential impact on American Heart Association scientific meetings. As you know, the Association's primary concern has been and always will be the health, safety and well-being of everyone involved with our organization. The Quality of Care and Outcomes Research 2020 Scientific Sessions (May 15th -16th) in Reston, Virginia is no exception.

According to U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the risk of contracting the coronavirus in the U.S. is low. We are actively and closely monitoring the situation and will continue to follow the guidance of the U.S. Department of State and the CDC, as well as state and local authority advisories from the Virginia Department of Health and the Fairfax County Health Department. At this time, we believe it is in the overall best interests of our work and shared mission to continue with Quality of Care and Outcomes Research 2020 Scientific Sessions as planned.

We are in constant communication with our contractors in Reston and are confirming that the venue has adequate supplies for hand washing and hand sanitizer stations, as well as ensuring surfaces are cleaned regularly. In addition, we will be formally discouraging handshakes, will be regularly sharing CDC's best practices during the meeting to create the safest possible environment.

World Health Organization (WHO) and CDC Prevention Guidance:

- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- When coughing and sneezing, cover mouth and nose with flexed elbow or tissue – throw any used tissue away immediately and wash hands.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
- If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.
- Avoid close contact with anyone who has fever and cough.
- If you have a fever, cough or difficulty breathing, seek medical care early and share previous travel history with your health care provider.

Of course, we understand that some of you may still not feel comfortable traveling, and we encourage everyone to follow their own judgement.

We realize this is a dynamic situation and should things significantly change, we will share updates, as necessary. We also encourage you to [visit our conference web site](#) for the very latest information.

We look forward to seeing you in Reston.

For additional inquires, call 1-888-242-2453 (Inside US) or 001-214-570-5935 (Outside US).



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