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|MC_PREVIEW_TEXT|

CORONAVIRUS UPDATE for all involved in SpineWeek

After today's meeting with a representative of the Australian Government, the SpineWeek Committee has opted to continue with the organization of the Meeting.

The SpineWeek Committee, in consultation with the PCO and local authorities in Australia is monitoring the situation on a daily basis. The Government of the State of Victoria (Melbourne) offers its full support to SpineWeek and its participants and will take all health measures necessary to contribute to the success of a safe SpineWeek.

Whereas it is true that delegates from mainland China and Iran are banned from traveling to Melbourne at this stage, there is no such restriction for people traveling from elsewhere. We are very grateful for the ongoing support of our exhibitors and participants who continue to register and plan for the Meeting and we have not experienced any substantial impact so far.

Mindful of our duty as organizers, we are carefully consulting with experts on what the appropriate sanitary, health and other measures should be. We can assure you that all appropriate measures as recommended by the WHO will be in place at SpineWeek. We will also introduce SpineWeek as a handshake/hug/kiss-free meeting.

COVID-19 Preparedness and Frequently Asked Questions are mentioned hereunder.

We look forward to welcoming you to SpineWeek in Melbourne in April and wish you, your business colleagues, your communities and your families good wishes and resilience in the months to come.

The SpineWeek Committee
Chris Colloca

Jiří Dvořák

Robert Gunzburg

Marek Szpalski

Frequently Asked Questions for Attendees

What are the general health recommendations during SpineWeek as a result of the novel coronavirus?

The following guidelines are set out by the WHO and the Australian Government:

- * Frequently clean hands by using alcohol-based hand rub or soap and water;
- * When coughing and sneezing cover mouth and nose with flexed elbow or tissue – throw the tissue away immediately and wash hands;
- * Avoid close contact with anyone who has a fever and cough;
- * If you have a fever, cough and difficulty breathing seek medical care early and share previous travel history with your health care provider;

What steps is SpineWeek taking to help build confidence among participants?

- * Hand sanitizer stations will be available at key points throughout the convention center particularly in high-trafficked areas. We encourage all attendees to stay informed on the basic protective measures the public can take, such as the ones listed by the WHO.
- * This year, our meeting will be handshake free to minimize the potential transmission of any illness.
- * In addition, microphone covers will be placed on all microphones being utilized and continuously sanitized.
- * We will ensure that medical care is readily available to address immediate healthcare concerns of attendees

Does SpineWeek have recommended travel and health safety tips for me to consider prior to arriving in Melbourne?

- * Attendees should not travel to SpineWeek if they are feeling unwell.
- * Attendees should monitor the Australian Government Department of Health travel notices, (<https://www.health.gov.au/health-topics/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov#latest-news>)

(
<https://www.health.gov.au/health-topics/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov#latest-news>
) and the WHO
(<https://www.who.int/ith/2020-24-01-outbreak-of-Pneumonia-caused-by-new-coronavirus/en/>
(
<https://www.who.int/ith/2020-24-01-outbreak-of-Pneumonia-caused-by-new-coronavirus/en/>
) prior to their departure.

What are the first signs of infection of coronavirus?

Symptoms may include fever, cough, sore throat, nausea/vomiting, and difficulty breathing. Difficulty breathing is a sign of possible pneumonia and requires immediate medical attention. It can take up to 14 days for symptoms to show after a person has been infected.

What if I have concerns about recent development of symptoms on-site?

Our central point of contact will be at the registration desk, which is always staffed during the meeting hours. This will be highlighted through the event app and through email prior to the event.

What happens if detection occurs?

Once detection has occurred, event security in consultation with SpineWeek will notify venue security and MCEC Operations Manager who will escort the individual to the first aid room for isolation.

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