

COVID-19 NAHJ 2024 Statement

NAHJ understands the benefits of in-person gatherings, training and networking connections for our members, sponsors, recruiters and guests. With that in mind, we have decided to host this year's NAHJ 40th Anniversary Conference and Expo as a **MASK-OPTIONAL EVENT** (not a mask-free event). We encourage all of our attendees to choose the option that is best suited for them and respect the decisions of everyone else around them.

Our decision to make #NAHJ2024 a mask-optional event was informed by the federal government's announcement last year declaring the end of COVID-19 as a public health emergency. As of today, there are no federal COVID-19 guidelines for large gatherings in the United States, and the CDC [no longer forecasts the number of COVID-19 cases](#). However, [COVID-19 can surge at various times throughout the year](#), including summer.

We believe that precautions and responsible behavior are still the best policy. As such, we recommend:

- **Wearing a mask if you feel the need.** Masks are still an effective way to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Even if you're vaccinated, wearing a mask in crowded indoor settings can reduce your chances of getting sick.
- **Getting vaccinated and boosted.** Getting vaccinated and boosted is the best way to protect yourself from COVID-19. Vaccinations help to reduce the risk of getting sick, being hospitalized and dying from COVID-19.
- **Staying home if you are sick.** If you are sick with any respiratory illness, it is important to stay home and avoid contact with others. This will help prevent the spread of illness.
- **Wash your hands often.** Washing your hands is an important way to prevent the spread of germs. Make sure to wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after using the bathroom, before eating and after being around someone who is sick.

Finally, it is important to use your own judgment and make decisions that are right for you and your family. If you are not comfortable attending a large gathering, you do not have to participate. It is important to note that these guidelines are subject to change at any time. It is always best to check for the most up-to-date information.