



May 26, 2021

To Whom It May Concern:

The American Immunization Registry Association (AIRA) is hosting our annual National Meeting in Portland, Oregon on August 3–5, 2021. AIRA members play a vital role at our National Meetings by lending their voices to national issues, helping set standards, and gaining tools and information in areas where they need it most. This year is no exception.

Taking into consideration that we're coming out of a pandemic and that there is still a lot of uncertainty, we are offering a virtual attendance option this year. However, virtual attendees will only have the opportunity to participate in five of an anticipated 25+ sessions. We strongly encourage staff to attend in person, if possible. Staff who are able to attend in person will gain more knowledge, have access to breakout sessions and facilitator-led discussions, and opportunities to collaborate with their peers.

This year's meeting will include the added opportunity of collaborating and sharing lessons learned about the pandemic with other people who've been through it and understand the challenges. We believe in-person attendance this year will be invaluable in that regard.

We understand the challenges jurisdictions have faced during the pandemic, from hiring and training new employees/retaining employees, navigating the ever-evolving COVID-19 response, shifting focus between day-to-day work and pandemic work, and figuring out how to transition out of the pandemic and finding a new normal. We also know you may have concerns about employees traveling.

We want you to know that we take your concerns seriously and assure you that we'll abide by national and Oregon state COVID-19 guidelines and protocols and do everything we can to keep our in-person attendees safe.

If staff in your jurisdiction are able to attend in person, we recommend registering and reserving hotel rooms before the **early bird deadline of June 30, 2021**.

If you have any questions about the AIRA National Meeting, please contact Carmela Gupta at cgupta@immregistries.org.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Coyle, MEd | Executive Director

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