



## COVID-19 Acknowledgement and Assumption of Risk and Release 2021 NIC Fall Conference

The National Investment Center for Seniors Housing & Care, Inc. (NIC) is looking forward to returning to producing in person events, recognizing that the safety of all attendees is a shared responsibility of NIC, our event hosts and partners, and ultimately each attendee. NIC is doing its part by monitoring and complying with regulations to the extent applicable to our events, and public health guidelines. We are implementing safe event polices and protocols as may be required to comply with applicable regulations, and that are consistent with those guidelines. Each in person event attendee must also do their part by adhering to applicable regulations, as well as all health and safety guidelines, policies, and protocols implemented by NIC and our partners (including, for the 2021 NIC Fall Conference, by Marriott and Safe Expo with respect to COVID-19) throughout all phases of an event.

***Please read this Acknowledgement and Assumption of Risk and Release carefully.  
Consult a health care professional and ask us any questions regarding your attendance. You agree that you  
have read, understood and acknowledged the risks associated with attendance at the 2021 NIC Fall  
Conference.***

### What is COVID-19?

The United States Centers for Disease Control (CDC) is responding to an outbreak of respiratory disease caused by a novel (*new*) coronavirus that was first detected in China and now has spread to other countries throughout the world, including in the United States. *Coronaviruses* are a large family of viruses that are common in people and many different species of animals. Reported illnesses from the virus that causes COVID-19 have ranged from very mild (including some with no reported symptoms) to severe, including illness resulting in death. Information regarding the virus and how it is transmitted, the efficacy of vaccines, and the risks to vaccinated and unvaccinated people from variant strains continues to evolve, and advice, protocols and guidelines to reduce the spread of the virus continue to develop and change on an ongoing basis.

### Watch for Symptoms

People with COVID-19 have had a wide range of symptoms reported – ranging from mild symptoms to severe illness and death. Symptoms may appear ***2-14 days after exposure to the virus.*** People with these symptoms may have COVID-19:

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

***This list does not include all possible symptoms. Check the [CDC website](#) for the latest guidance and symptoms.***

### Your Participation

You have decided to attend the 2021 NIC Fall Conference and have voluntarily done so. If you feel sick or otherwise do not meet or want to meet the requirements for attendance or no longer want to attend the conference, please contact us and consult our [refund policy](#). While at the conference, it is your responsibility to follow NIC's *Code of Conduct* and all other safety protocols required by NIC and Safe Expo. Your participation and compliance is essential in creating a safe environment for all attendees, and for those they come into contact with -- including members of their households and communities where they live -- in the first few weeks after the conference concludes.



## Risk Factors to Consider in Attending

Several factors can contribute to the risk of attendees getting and spreading COVID-19 at 2021 NIC Fall Conference. In combination, the CDC guidance as of May 1, 2021 finds the following factors will create higher or lower amounts of risk.

- **Number of COVID-19 cases in the community**—High or increasing levels of COVID-19 cases in the event location or the locations the attendees are coming from increase the risk of infection and spread among attendees.
- **Exposure during travel**—Airports, airplanes, bus stations, buses, train stations, trains, public transport, gas stations, and rest stops are all places where physical distancing may be challenging and ventilation may be poor.
- **Setting of the event**—Indoor events, especially in places with poor ventilation, could pose more risk than outdoor events.
- **Length of the event**—Events that last longer pose more risk than shorter events. For example, being within 6 feet of someone who has COVID-19 for a total of 15 minutes or more (over a 24-hour period) could increase the risk of becoming infected.
- **Number and crowding of people at the event**—Events with more people increase the likelihood of being exposed. The size of the event should be determined based on whether attendees from different households can stay at least socially distant. Physical distancing at events could reduce transmission risk.
- **Behavior of attendees during an event**—Events where people engage in behaviors such as interacting with others from outside their own household, singing, shouting, not maintaining physical distancing, or not wearing masks consistently and correctly, can increase risk.

## Code of Conduct and Safety Guidelines

NIC has published, and will update as needed, the *Code of Conduct* so that all attendees know what is expected prior to arrival at the 2021 Fall NIC Conference and during the conference. Conference attendees and participants, and their guests, are required to adhere to the Code of Conduct and all health and safety guidelines and policies implemented by NIC and our partners (including Marriott and Safe Expo) throughout all phases of the conference and after the conference -- including guidelines related to COVID-19. Regardless, NIC cannot guarantee that conference participants or their guests will not become infected with COVID-19 as a result of the 2021 Fall NIC Conference. A certain amount of risk is unavoidable and is assumed by each attendee, participant, and their guests.

## Daily Health Checks

As we monitor the latest guidelines, NIC has developed a plan with Safe Expo to conduct daily health checks, if needed (which may include temperature screening and/or symptom checking) of NIC staff and conference attendees. However, if implemented, temperature screening and screening of symptoms alone will not detect COVID-19 or prevent someone from attending the event who has COVID-19. Following the *Code of Conduct* will reduce the risk of exposure, but cannot guarantee that event attendees or their guests will not be exposed to or become infected with COVID-19.

## Proof of Vaccination

NIC is requiring that all conference attendees and NIC Staff submit proof of full COVID-19 vaccination, and attest to the authenticity of such proof, before being admitted into the 2021 NIC Fall Conference.

A person is considered fully vaccinated to be admitted to the Conference if they are:

- 2 weeks after their second dose in a 2-dose series, such as the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines, or
- 2 weeks after a single-dose vaccine, such as Johnson & Johnson's Janssen vaccine.

Final doses of your vaccination must be completed by Sunday, October 17, 2021 to gain entry to the 2021 NIC Fall Conference. If an attendee or NIC staff member does not meet these requirements, they are NOT considered fully vaccinated and will not be permitted to enter the event.



## If You Get Sick

It is possible that you or your guest could show signs or symptoms of COVID-19 or become infected and have COVID-19 during the conference. You and your guests agree to take the following actions if you are sick. Any COVID-19 related questions prior to arrival at the conference or after you depart should be directed to the Pandemic Compliance Advisor who will be available to answer your questions.

- **Before the Conference.** If you or a guest become sick with COVID-19 symptoms, test positive for COVID-19, or have been exposed to someone with symptoms or someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 prior to your arrival at the NIC Conference, please stay home and use the refund policy, as applicable.
- **During the Conference.** If you or a guest get sick at the conference, notify our *Pandemic Compliance Advisor* (e.g., the designated COVID-19 point of contact) right away. You will be asked to no longer attend the conference.
- **After the Conference.** Please advise us if you or a guest becomes sick after the conference. Post-conference monitoring and communications related to COVID-19 will be continue after the conference.

***If you experience an emergency, please dial immediately 9-1-1 to ensure you are seen at the right care setting.***

## If Someone Gets Sick

If someone attending the conference or a guest becomes sick while at the conference, we will follow the current CDC public health safety protocols and guidance. We will notify attendees of closures and restrictions put in place due to COVID-19 exposure, which could include closing off areas to allow for cleaning and disinfecting. Those attendees and others who have had close contact with a person diagnosed with COVID-19 should not attend the conference, but rather self-monitor for symptoms and follow CDC guidance if symptoms develop.

## COVID-19 Public Health Reporting

Please be aware that we may report to and cooperate with public health authorities regarding information about people under investigation for the virus that causes COVID-19. We may report to public health agencies information about you or your guests for public health reasons, including to the local or state health department.

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**Please sign below to confirm that you received, read and understand the information in this *Acknowledgement and Assumption of Risk and Release* document and have been given the opportunity to ask questions, including to your health care provider and others.**

### **Acknowledgement and Assumption of Risk and Release**

I am aware and understand that the World Health Organization (WHO) has declared a worldwide pandemic due to the virus that causes COVID-19 infections. I acknowledge that information regarding the virus and how it is transmitted, the efficacy of vaccines, and the risks to vaccinated and unvaccinated people from variant strains continues to evolve, and advice, protocols and guidelines to reduce the spread of the virus continue to develop and change on an ongoing basis.

I acknowledge and agree that I am voluntarily registering to attend and participate in the 2021 NIC Fall Conference on November 1-3, 2021 (the “Conference”) at the Marriott Marquis in Houston, Texas (the “Hotel”). I acknowledge that the attendees at the Conference are likely to interact with each other, and with other guests and employees of the Hotel and that there is an inherent risk that the COVID-19 virus could be transmitted by or among any of these persons despite reasonable precautions described below by NIC and the



Hotel, including (but not only) transmission by a person who has no symptoms and potentially by persons who have been vaccinated and/or who have recently received negative test results for COVID-19.

I understand that NIC intends to develop and implement protocols and processes, based upon the guidance and directives in effect at the time of the Conference from the applicable local, state and national governmental and public health authorities (the “Guidelines”) that are intended to mitigate the risk of the transmission of COVID-19 at the Conference and a *Code of Conduct* developed with Safe Expo that all attendees will be required to adhere to; however, NIC cannot guarantee that the risk of transmission of COVID-19 at the Conference can be completely eliminated. Unless required to do so by the Guidelines then in effect, NIC may not independently verify or confirm the vaccinated status or test results of attendees or its employees or the accuracy of any statement or representation of vaccination or absence of infection by attendees of the Conference.

### **Acknowledgement of Compliance with Code of Conduct**

A critical component of the efforts to protect attendees and their guests at the Conference is the acceptance of a shared commitment by all attendees, participants and their guests to adhere to and comply with the applicable *Code of Conduct* and all other policies and protocols, along with any instructions, directions or directives of the Hotel, and to act prudently, safely and in accordance with public health directives and guidance.

#### **By registering for the Conference, I acknowledge and understand the following:**

1. I have examined and considered the risk to me and members of my household of possible exposure to and illness from infectious diseases, including but not limited to COVID-19, from attendance at the Conference.
2. I have voluntarily decided to attend the Conference, including in activities, programs and excursions that I may choose to participate in, with knowledge of the risks and dangers related to the virus that causes COVID-19, to me, to my guests and to other members of my household, and I am voluntarily accepting and assuming these risks, both known and unknown, whether caused by the fault or negligence of NIC, its officers, directors, employees, agents, partners, sponsors, volunteers, consultants, contractors and advisors (collectively “NIC”), other attendees or participants, or otherwise.
3. I agree that I will read and make myself familiar with the *Code of Conduct* that will be in effect at the time and location of the Conference. I agree that I will abide by and comply with the *Code of Conduct* and any other policies and procedures that are communicated to me by or on behalf of NIC or Safe Expo, along with any instructions, directions or directives of the Hotel that are communicated to me.
4. I agree that I will provide complete, truthful and accurate information in response to any inquiries by or on behalf of NIC, Safe Expo or the Hotel regarding my health status, symptoms or travel



5. I agree to submit proof of COVID-19 vaccination, and attest to the authenticity of such proof, by October 28, 2021 to gain admittance into the 2021 NIC Fall Conference.

**6. RELEASE AND WAIVER.**

**I HEREBY RELEASE, WAIVE AND FOREVER DISCHARGE AND HOLD HARMLESS ANY AND ALL LIABILITY, CLAIMS, AND DEMANDS OF WHATEVER KIND OR NATURE AGAINST NATIONAL INVESTMENT CENTER FOR SENIORS HOUSING & CARE, INC. (NIC) AND ITS AFFILIATED PARTNERS AND SPONSORS, INCLUDING IN EACH CASE, WITHOUT LIMITATION, THEIR DIRECTORS, OFFICERS, EMPLOYEES, AGENTS, VOLUNTEERS, CONSULTANTS, CONTRACTORS AND ADVISORS (THE “RELEASED PARTIES”), EITHER IN LAW OR IN EQUITY, TO THE FULLEST EXTENT PERMISSIBLE BY LAW, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO DAMAGES OR LOSSES CAUSED BY THE NEGLIGENCE, FAULT OR CONDUCT OF ANY KIND ON THE PART OF ANY OF THE RELEASED PARTIES, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO DEATH, BODILY INJURY, ILLNESS, ECONOMIC LOSS OR OUT OF POCKET EXPENSES, OR LOSS OR DAMAGE TO PROPERTY, WHICH I, MY HEIRS, ASSIGNEES, NEXT OF KIN AND/OR LEGALLY APPOINTED OR DESIGNATED REPRESENTATIVES, MAY HAVE OR WHICH MAY HEREAFTER ACCRUE ON MY BEHALF, WHICH ARISE OR MAY HEREAFTER ARISE FROM MY ATTENDANCE AT THE CONFERENCE OR ANY ACTIVITIES, PROGRAMS AND EXCURSIONS. I UNDERSTAND THAT THIS WAIVER AND RELEASE EXPRESSLY APPLIES TO ANY CLAIMS RELATED TO EXPOSURE, TRANSMISSION, INJURY OR DEATH FROM THE COVID-19 VIRUS AND OTHER COMMUNICABLE DISEASES, AND WAIVE AND RELEASE CLAIMS, WHETHER CAUSED BY THE NEGLIGENCE OF ANY RELEASED PARTY OR OTHERWISE.**

7. I recognize that this *Acknowledgement and Assumption of Risk and Release* document, including the release provisions, is intended to be an enforceable legal document and that I have carefully read and fully understand the provisions of this agreement and having had a sufficient opportunity to consider its terms, I have chosen to voluntarily enter into this agreement by proceeding with registration for and attendance at the Conference. All matters arising out of or relating to this agreement shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the internal laws of the State of Texas