

## WINTER UPDATE



*from our Chief Medical Officer*  
*Dr. Martin Hahn*



# COVID Safety at Events. Why It's More Important than Ever

Four (4) new and important developments are driving the need to push more reliable and innovative Covid testing technology and protocols where attendees and co-workers congregate indoors in crowded spaces e.g. at corporate events, family gatherings, weddings, etc. Ignoring these issues will lead to spreader events, significant health and productivity impacts and a lot of work, home and travel plan hassles. Affordable solutions exist today to help event leaders advance and improve the new normal with a considerably greater level of certainty - masks-off - for the Winter season.

**1** At least one Long-COVID symptom will effect 20%-30% of those who get COVID for 4-6 weeks, and 0.5% - 2% of those who get COVID will end up with debilitating symptoms – regardless of previous vaccination, age, ethnicity, sex, or co-morbidities – these risk levels have never been an acceptable public health risk. According to Dr. Hahn, “It’s a lottery”. The impact on productivity in the US alone is ~\$3.7 trillion. To illustrate the potential impact on the work force and economic recovery, look at some new data on significant productivity impacts [underline link in PDF]. This is still early data, but beyond the health impact the net result is significant work, home and travel plan disruption.

**2** New FDA Guidance (Aug 11, 2022) makes it clear that “**rapid, lateral-flow antigen tests**” (i.e.. “**at home**” **tests**) **critically underperform**. To gain more certainty, one would need to **test 3-times, 48 hrs apart** – by then it is often too late – and the cost of 3 tests approaches or exceeds the cost of better commercial testing.

a. For example Abbott BinaxNOW test accuracy has been shown to be **only ~35%** in **asymptomatic** people (Nature 2022)

### **A study recently completed at University of Massachusetts showed that**

- i. after 3 tests 48 hrs apart with negative results (starting day 4 or 5 after exposure) in **asymptomatic** people = the results are just 70% sensitive
- ii. after 2 tests 48 hrs apart with negative results in **symptomatic** patients (after symptom onset)= the results are about 94% sensitive.

## Contact Us

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**It Makes Sense to Make Sure**

New datapoints over the last few days:

**Washington Post:** [YOUR MOVE: Long covid may set you back a decade in exercise gains](#)

**NYTimes:** [Nearly Half of Covid Patients Haven't Fully Recovered Months Later, Study Finds](#)

**WebMD:** [Long COVID Can Make You Less Able to Exercise: Study](#)

**LA Times:** [Eric J. Topol: Immunity's down. Infection rates are up. And what happened to everyone's masks?](#)

**3** The recent emergence of **new Covid-19 variants** from across our shores are **increasing hospitalization rates** overseas and have some level of ability to evade current vaccinations. There are several variants with similar mutations, demonstrating “convergent evolution” and seemingly less competition than before among strains to become the dominant variant. These variants seem to co-exist next to each other, and approved monoclonal antibody treatments seem less effective.

**4** Finally, the official number of reported Covid-19 cases in the US is misleadingly low, since reporting has been mostly reduced to PCR test results, and those test numbers have declined – due to widespread at-home testing which does not get reported. The result has been a vast underestimate of the official number of cases. Yes – hospitalizations and death rates from Covid-19 have been largely stable, but the impact on productivity (from missing work due to mild/moderate disease) and return-to-normal activities (e.g. conferences, events) has not been measured well. Wastewater measurements of Covid-19 levels have emerged as a better measure of true “disease burden”, usually accessible on state websites. These levels have been going up significantly in many areas and are being tracked. With Fall and Winter around the corner and activities moving indoors, experts are concerned that levels will rise further and lead to multiple mini-outbreaks that sideline productivity and may also put the vulnerable and elderly at higher risk, especially as booster rates are still not homogeneously high throughout the country.

With authentic technology and protocols we can all navigate the new normal more effectively thereby increasing attendance, health, trust and the revenue that follows.

### In-person events require best-in-class health & safety this Fall/Winter.

AllClear Healthcare's 30-min on-site PCR, and 12-min PCR-equivalent covid testing has helped clients including 4Gclinical, Boston Consulting Group, Harvard ALI, Institutional Investor, F5 and others. We were just added to Cvent Marketplace and we are members of MPI.

We provide only best-in-class testing technology and protocols in order to deliver meaningful solutions. Testing is FDA EUA approved, highly accurate and affordable, and provides a new level of certainty with seamless, customer-centric solutions to keep teams and guests more safely and productively up and running.

[Learn More](#)

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