



Health & Safety Plan

To promote the safety of everyone attending GOX 2023, we will monitor the guidance and requirements of the [Centers for Disease Control \(CDC\)](#), [State of New York](#), the [Erie County Department of Public Health](#), and the [World Health Organization](#) regarding COVID-19 safety practices. Therefore, this Attendee Safety Plan may change from time to time through the last day of GOX 2023 in August 2023.

The University at Buffalo and Buffalo Marriott Niagra have implemented a variety of new protocols and elevated practices, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and keeping with our high standards of cleanliness and commitment to providing excellent service. They have also made a few adjustments to the services, amenities, and facilities available during your stay.

IMPORTANT: In light of events surrounding COVID-19, this is an appropriate time to remind

ourselves of the risks incident to attending GOX 2023. Even with every reasonable precaution to keep you safe as outlined for you by the CDC, GOX 2023 cannot fully eliminate all risks of harm to attendees or guarantee their safety, especially from risks posed by COVID-19 or its variant strains. **Ultimately, you are responsible for your own safety.**

Deciding to Attend:

- Anyone having underlying COVID-19-related risk factors should not attend.
- Anyone exhibiting any symptoms or signs of sickness or who has been in contact with known positive COVID-19 cases should not attend.
- Anyone testing positive for COVID-19 within the last 10 days from the start of GOX 2023 should not attend.
- Anyone who refuses to meet the requirements listed below should not attend.

WHAT WE ARE DOING FOR YOUR SAFETY:

REQUIREMENTS:

- **Be Prepared to Provide Proof of COVID-19 Vaccination or Negative COVID Test Required:** Each attendee may be asked to provide either their COVID-19 vaccination card (physical or photo) and ID (physical) or a negative COVID-19 test (physical or photo) and ID (physical) at registration. All on-site GOX 2023/AVS staff, contractors, and vendors must be in compliance with this rule, as well. No exceptions.
 - If providing proof of vaccination, the vaccine card (physical or photo) must show both the first and second dose of Pfizer/BioNTech or Moderna vaccines or the single-dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine. Mixed vaccines will also be accepted (one dose of Moderna and one dose of Pfizer). Vaccines approved by the [World Health Organization \(WHO\)/CDC](#) will also be accepted. Please note that your final vaccine must be administered at least two weeks prior to the first day of GOX 2023, August 13, 2023. You must also show your ID (physical). Proof of booster vaccines are not required, but are recommended.
 - If providing COVID-19 test results, you must show a negative result (physical or photo), dated within 24 hours if Antigen test, or 48-72 hours if PCR test before the date of admission (no home tests). You must also show your ID (physical).
- **Face Masks Recommended:** Masks are currently optional; however, GOX 2023 recommends wearing them in larger group settings. In addition, you should be prepared to wear a face mask during all GOX sessions and events if guidelines should change. An [acceptable mask](#) is made of at least two layers of

breathable fabric or hospital grade material; fully covers the nose, nostrils, and mouth; fits firmly under the chin; and fits snugly, but comfortably against the side of the face.

- **Social Distancing:** Be mindful of the social distancing protocols and compliant with all posted instructions and signage.
- **Emergency Contact Number:** All attendees are required to provide a working mobile phone number to AVS/GOX 2023 in case of an emergency.
- **Waiver Form:** All Registrants are required to Review and accept the GOX 2023/AVS Assumption of the Risk and Waiver of Liability statement prior to registering.

GOX 2023 AND AVS ASSUMPTION OF RISK AND WAIVER OF LIABILITY:

Please review the following GOX 2023 and AVS Assumption of Risk and Waiver of Liability Statement. You must accept the statement details outlined in order to be able to complete your registration. If you have any questions about the statement, please contact events@avs.org.

GOX 2023 and AVS Assumption of Risk and Waiver of Liability Statement: By checking the “I Accept” button below, I, on my behalf and on behalf of each individual included in this registration (“Registrant”), acknowledge the contagious nature of COVID-19 and voluntarily assume the risk that we may be exposed to or infected by COVID-19 by accessing The 6th U.S. Gallium Oxide Workshop (GOX 2023) (“Event”) in-person and that such exposure or infection may result in personal injury, illness, permanent disability, and death. As such, I accept the terms of this Assumption of the Risk and Waiver of Liability. Registrants understand that the risk of becoming exposed to or infected by COVID-19 may result from the actions, omissions, or negligence of myself and others, including, but not limited to, the American Vacuum Society, the University at Buffalo, and the Buffalo Marriott Niagra, their respective employees, agents, contractors, volunteers, and other Event participants. Registrants agree to abide by [all preventative measures \(collectively “Measures”\)](#) put in place by GOX 2023 and AVS, the University at Buffalo, and the Buffalo Marriott Niagra, their respective employees, agents, contractors, and volunteers at any time prior to and during the Event, including but not limited to, providing proof of COVID-19 vaccination and or negative PCR or Antigen test, wearing an [acceptable mask](#), if requested, remaining at least six feet away from other Event participants, and promptly notifying AVS if any registrant experiences symptoms of COVID-19 during the Event. Registrants acknowledge that personal failure to follow these Measures may result in being removed from the Event and all related activities without any refund or reimbursement. Finally, Registrants acknowledge that no promises, representations, or affirmations of fact were made to me concerning the safety or danger associated with traveling to the Event or participating in any activity or interaction related to or associated with the Event.

I have reviewed and accept the GOX 2023 and AVS Assumption of Risk and Waiver of Liability Statement

ENTRY & SYMPTOM EVALUATIONS:

- Signage will appear at any entrance alerting attendees that entry will be denied if they have:
 - been diagnosed with COVID-19 in the last ten (10) days,
 - exhibited symptoms of COVID-19 in the last ten (10) days, or
 - had contact with a person that has or is suspected of having COVID-19 within the past ten (10) days and have not completed a quarantine protocol, or
 - not provided proof of COVID-19 vaccination or a negative PCR or Antigen test (as noted above).
 - refused to wear a mask when requested while in the University at Buffalo, the Buffalo Marriott Niagra, or any facility hosting an GOX 2023 event or meeting.
 - Attendees must adhere to the requirements of any such signage and any directives from GOX 2023/AVS staff given onsite during the event. Failure to do so could result in the denial of entry or removal from the venue altogether without refund
- **GOX 2023/AVS reserves the right to deny such entry to anyone seeking admittance or to remove them from the venue should they present with any COVID-19 like symptoms or refuse to adhere to the policies above. No refunds will be given, and such conduct may disqualify such individuals from attending future GOX Meetings.**

ISOLATION AREA:

- There will be a designated isolation area for individuals experiencing COVID-19-like symptoms at registration. You will be asked to remain in this area until you have secured an appointment with a testing facility, at which time you will be directed out of the building.
- GOX 2023 will assist those presenting COVID-19-like symptoms to exit safely.
- A negative COVID-19 test must be presented at the Registration Desk for consideration to re-enter. Upon review, you may be granted approval to return to the meeting. No At-Home Test Results will be accepted. [Click here for a list of nearby testing sites.](#)

In addition, GOX 2023 will be implementing the following safety measures in addition to the enhanced University at Buffalo and the Buffalo Marriott Niagra cleaning protocols:

ALL AREAS:

- Handshaking, hugging, or other unnecessary person-to-person contact will be discouraged between all participants.
- GOX 2023 will remind participants through appropriate signage and/or verbal communications.

REGISTRATION AREA:

- Socially distanced where feasible
- Limited Conference handouts or material bins

SESSION ROOMS:

- Sanitizing kits in every session room
- Presentation Area sanitizing wipe-down between presenters
- Socially distanced seating where feasible
- Hand sanitizer stations in session hallways/entryways

EXHIBITS POSTERS/RECEPTIONS:

- Socially distanced layout where feasible
- Hand sanitizer stations throughout the room.
- Additional F&B stations where feasible

OTHER RECOMMENDED GUIDELINES:

TRAVELING TO ATTEND:

- **U.S. Travel Restrictions:** Look for current restrictions on entering the US from different regions on the [CDC travel website](#).
- **Visa Requirements:** Depending on your country of departure, you may need to apply for a [National Interest Exception](#) for travel to the U.S.
- **Your Country of Departure's Restrictions and Quarantine Requirements:** Your country may have its own vaccination or testing policies for departure and/or return. It is your responsibility to check your local government agencies for any vaccination, testing, or quarantine requirements.
- **Airline Policies:** Check with your airline to make sure you understand their policies and requirements.