



MACHC-Letter 05/2020

July 20, 2020

All MACHC Member States and Observers

Subject: Virtual MACHC 21 Conference

Dear Colleagues,

I have been struggling with making this decision for some time now. While hopes were that the coronavirus pandemic would subside in time to hold a face-to-face MACHC21 Conference, unfortunately that has not happened. We have come to the inevitable conclusion that we cannot risk the health and safety of attendees to conduct the MACHC21 Conference in New Orleans, Louisiana, USA as originally planned.

Thus, it is with much regret that I must inform you that we will not have an in-person Conference this year. Instead, we are planning to conduct our Conference via a virtual meeting platform. We are presently in the midst of evaluating several of these platforms. Fortunately, there are some promising ones that include dynamic ways to engage participants, options for breakout sessions and simultaneous translation. We will do everything possible to ensure an effective and productive virtual Conference.

We ask that you mark your calendars to include **November 30-December 4**. To avoid video conference fatigue, we must by necessity have a streamlined agenda with shorter daily sessions (3-4 hours a day maximum) at times that will accommodate both regional and European participants. With that in mind, we will need to trim the Agenda to core topics and would like your input on what those should include. We have developed a simple survey that should only take a few quick minutes to complete. Please respond to the [survey](#) by no later than **July 31, 2020** so that we can take your views into account as we plan the agenda.

I look forward to your responses. Be safe and stay healthy.

Sincerely,

Kathryn L. Ries

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