



January 4, 2022

After careful consideration, the Organization for Safety, Asepsis and Prevention (OSAP) executive committee of the Board of Directors has concluded that the January 24-26, 2022, Boot Camp will be offered as virtual-only. Like many of you, the OSAP board and staff were eagerly anticipating being together to share this learning experience in person. However, the rapid escalation of COVID-19 cases throughout the United States has impacted numerous segments of the country's businesses. As you may be aware, the week-on week increases in new cases is at 79% and increases in hospitalizations follows at 27%. This rapidly paced increase in cases promises to continue for the near future, making it likely these disruptions will continue through January. This makes an in-person course in late January a challenging proposition for several reasons.

Of utmost importance is the concern for the health and welfare of our attendees, speakers, and exhibitors. Anytime there is a large group of people together during prolonged periods of time there is risk of spread of COVID-19. When this occurs while people are away from home it is particularly challenging. Traveling to and from the venue, congregating with large groups of people, eating all meals in restaurants, and other activities related to a conference are known to increase the risk of transmission. Travel has been disrupted throughout the country, which promises to continue into the near future. Attendees who come to Atlanta and then test positive will have to isolate in place. That may not be feasible if hotels do not have enough rooms to extend stays. The OSAP executive committee is also concerned about the impact this current surge is having on the healthcare delivery systems. This course should not be the source of a breakout that requires essential healthcare workers, such as many of our attendees, to reduce access to oral health care while they isolate.

Although we regret this disappointing news, we were prepared for this possibility.