In light of concerns about Covid-19, we want to inform CERAWeek delegates and speakers that we have engaged with health officials and relevant authorities over the last several weeks and are proactively implementing best international health and safety practices. The health and safety of CERAWeek participants is our highest priority. This note highlights important information and the measures we have developed for CERAWeek over the past weeks.

1. We will continue to follow national and international guidance regarding the situation and have provided at the end of this note the links to the World Health Organization and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control websites. We are checking travel advisories daily, and suggest you check this website for any changes in US travel advisories.

2. Here are three key points from official U.S. Government guidance on measures that the US Government has taken to control travel into the United States and restrict the flow of COVID-19:

   1. Foreign nationals who have visited China in the past 14 days may not enter the United States. Delegates from China will not be able to attend this year’s conference due to these existing US travel measures.

   2. American citizens, lawful permanent residents, and their families who have been in China in the past 14 days will be allowed to enter the United States but will be redirected to one of 11 airports to undergo health screening.

   3. George Bush International Airport in Houston is not one of the 11 U.S. airports to receive those required to undergo enhanced health screenings.

3. A working group led by Ambassador Carlos Pascual, a Senior Vice President at IHS Markit and a former US Ambassador and Special Energy Envoy has been in place to coordinate any and all proactive initiatives that we are taking for CERAWeek 2020. This group will remain in place throughout the conference and will continue to provide updates as necessary going forward.

4. As a precautionary measure, we have put in place a medical partnership with Houston Methodist Hospital (HMH) to help ensure a healthy and safe conference environment. In consultation over the past weeks with HMH, leading epidemiologists and health professionals, we have formulated a number of measures that also reflect recommendations provided by CDC (link):

   • Welcome Pack: each delegate will receive a health and safety welcome kit with a copy of the Houston Health Department information on preventing virus transmission as well as hand sanitizer
   • Sanitizing stations: they will be set up across the Hilton and George R. Brown Convention Center
   • Information: Health Department guidelines on personal safety will be posted in all bathrooms
   • Masks as needed: we will have them; however, experts suggest that it is better not to use them as they cause you to touch your face and eyes more often.
   • “No Handshake Policy” - that will be the conference protocol
• *First Aid rooms:* they will be prominent in both the Hilton Americas and George R Brown Convention Center with 24/7 availability
• *Safe food:* enhanced coordination with food preparation and serving services at all 3 venues
• *Clean Environment:* hotel and vendors will enhance cleaning efforts, including increased cleaning schedules throughout venues and of all equipment

5. Through CERAWeek’s partnership with Houston Methodist, delegates will receive:
   • Facilitated health care access to physicians at HMH
   • Access to Houston Methodist App, including online video access without having to leave the conference
   • Delegates are responsible for payment of services rendered by HMH
   • Additional details on logistics and access will be provided to IHS Markit prior to the conference

6. Finally, we want to remind all participants and all our partner organizations to help maintain a healthy environment:
   • Wash hands regularly
   • Use hand sanitizer when you aren’t able to wash hands
   • Avoid touching your hands to your mouth, nose and eyes
   • Greet other delegates without shaking hands
   • When you can, use phone cameras to capture business card information.
   • Allow your hotel room to be cleaned daily

As we have consulted widely, epidemiologists and health experts remind us that, most importantly, health is everyone’s responsibility. *If you feel ill, please protect yourself and others by not attending the conference.*

We welcome your comments, questions and suggestions, which can be sent ceraweek@ihsmarkit.com

**Website Links:**
https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019