

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

TO: All Members of Congress, Invited Press and Credentialed Staff

FROM: William J. Walker
Sergeant at Arms

DATE: February 17, 2022

SUBJECT: **State of the Union Address on Tuesday, March 1, 2022**

On **Tuesday, March 1, 2022 at 9:00 PM**, the President will deliver the State of the Union address before a Joint Session of Congress. Members are advised that guidelines for this event have been developed in consultation with the Office of Attending Physician (OAP). In order to accommodate all Members of Congress in the House Chamber for the State of the Union, Members will be seated on both the House Floor and in the House Gallery.

Please note that because the House Gallery will be used for Member seating for the State of the Union address, no guest tickets will be issued for this event.

ACCESS TO THE CAPITOL

Security measures in place for this event will have a significant impact on access to the House Wing of the United States Capitol beginning at **5:30 PM on Tuesday, March 1, 2022:**

- **Until 5:00 PM:** Routine access to the House Wing of the Capitol will be permitted, and official business visitors (OBVs) may enter the Capitol until 1:00 PM. OBVs must be personally escorted into the Capitol from the South Barricade. In addition, offices must email meeting and guest information for visitors to Houseappointmentsdesk@mail.house.gov. OBVs will receive a badge upon entry and must wear it at all times while in the Capitol.
- **After 5:30 PM:** Access to the House-wing of the Capitol will be restricted to Members of Congress, media, staff who have offices in the Capitol, and individuals who have been issued an event credential by the Sergeant at Arms.

SUMMARY OF CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

For the 2022 State of the Union, coronavirus safety measures emphasize a negative PCR test one day before the event, the wearing of a high quality, properly fitted, medical-grade filtration mask (KN95 or N95) at all times, and attestation of a negative health screening inventory and social distancing separation of seating. All State of the Union attendees, including Members of

Congress, invited press, and any staff person who will be in close contact with the principal attendees in a support staff role, are subject to the following medical entry requirements:

- Attestation of a daily negative health screening inventory. The screening form may be found by following this link: [Coronavirus Health Screening Inventory](#).
- A negative report of an RT-PCR test at the Capitol Visitors Center coronavirus test center located in Emancipation Hall within one day of the State of the Union.
- RT-PCR testing will be available on **Monday, February 28 from 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM** and from **5:00 PM to 7:00 PM**. Testing is required for all State of the Union attendees, including Members of Congress, invited press, and any staff person who will be in close contact with the principal attendees in a support staff role. Please note that individuals assigned to other support responsibilities in the adjacent Congressional Office Buildings or other locations ***do not have a test requirement***.

Please note that completion of SARS CoV2 coronavirus vaccination including booster vaccine is ***strongly recommended*** at least two weeks prior to the event. Individuals will receive notification of their test result to the cell phone or portable device number they identify at the time of test center registration. Individuals will show this notification or email message in the process of obtaining their ticket for entry to the event.

Additional Medical Requirements for Joint Session attendance:

- Must adhere to social distancing guidelines regarding seating separation distances.
- Must use waterless hand cleanser on entry to the House Chamber.
- Must avoid physical contact with other individuals.
- Must continuously wear an issued, FDA-authorized, KN95 or N95 mask that completely covers the nose and mouth.

Please note that failure to follow guidelines or removal of the mask in the House Chamber will result in the attendee's removal from the event and/or fines.

STATE OF THE UNION TICKET AND CREDENTIAL PICKUP

Each Member will receive one ticket to the State of the Union for their personal use only. Staff who have been identified as support for this event will receive a credential. **Tickets and/or credentials for this event will be available for pick up in Emancipation Hall on Tuesday, March 1 from 8:00 AM until 3:00 PM.**

- **Members are asked to please indicate if they will attend at the State of the Union no later than Thursday, February 23, by emailing:**
StateoftheUnion.RSVP@mail.house.gov
- **Please note that in order to attest to all required medical admissions guidelines for this event, Members are required to personally pick up their State of the Union ticket. Staff must also personally pick up their credential.**
- All attendees must present a valid, government-issued photo ID.

- Check-in staff will confirm with each attendee that they have completed the required medical protocols. Tickets will not be issued to those who have failed to comply with the required medical protocols.
- Attendees will attest to completion of the Coronavirus Health Screening inventory and receive a KN-95 mask.
- Once health screening is complete, attendees will receive their ticket or credential to the State of the Union. **Tickets and credentials are non-transferable.**

FLOOR AND GALLERY ACCESS

The House Floor and the House Gallery will open for seating at 7:00 PM. To accommodate all Members of Congress for the State of the Union, Members will be seated on both the House Floor and in the House Gallery.

STREET CLOSURES

On March 1 at 5:30 PM, the U.S. Capitol Police will begin to restrict vehicular access around the Capitol grounds, and at 7:00 PM will close all streets around the Capitol and the House office buildings. If you need to gain access to the Capitol grounds by vehicle, please use one of these locations on the House-side of the Capitol complex:

- First and C Street, S.E.
- New Jersey Avenue and D Street, S.E.
- Washington and C Street, S.W.

Vehicle access at these locations will be limited to Members of Congress and vehicles with a valid House parking permit with at least one vehicle occupant possessing a valid Congressional ID.

ACCESS TO THE HOUSE OFFICE BUILDINGS

On March 1, access to the House office buildings will not be affected. Current access policies will remain in effect for Members, staff, and OBVs.

ACCESS TO THE HOUSE PLAZA

On March 1 at 5:30 PM, access to the Capitol Plaza and Drives will be restricted to official motorcades only. Members and staff must park in either their office building space or along New Jersey Avenue.

We appreciate your cooperation and assistance. If you have further questions or have any concerns, please feel free to contact the Office of Attending Physician at (202) 225-5421 or the Office of the Sergeant at Arms at (202) 225-2456.

CAPITOL COMPLEX TRAFFIC RESTRICTIONS

State of the Union Address

Tuesday, March 1, 2022

In Effect 5:30 PM through 11:00 PM

