



LOCAL AND REGIONAL
GOVERNMENT ALLIANCE ON
RACE & EQUITY

Dear GARE Membership Meeting Registrant:

The GARE Staff and Local Organizing Committee are closely monitoring Coronavirus (COVID-19) developments and travel advisories in Portland OR / Multnomah County. As of Thursday, March 5th, [there are no public health recommendations in the Portland metro region to cancel or postpone large gatherings or special events](#) due to COVID-19. [Read Race Forward's full statement here.](#)

As of today, plans to host the Membership Meeting 2020 on April 14th –16th at the Oregon Convention Center remain unchanged. We will be reviewing guidance from Multnomah County Health Department on a daily basis. Information on changes to the meeting schedule will be posted on the GARE Membership Portal and GARE [Website](#). In the event of a cancellation, emails will also be sent to all ticket holders. Refunds of tickets are available until March 31st upon request.

For the health and well-being of all, we are asking attendees to take recommended precautions to limit the spread of illness, including the coronavirus and the flu. Please follow these guidelines:

- Do not attend GARE MM2020 if you feel sick and/or have a fever, cough or shortness of breath.
- Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash. (If a tissue is unavailable, use the crook of your elbow.)
- We recommend that you avoid physical contact in your greetings (shaking hands, hugging).
- Please wash your hands frequently with soap and make use of the hand sanitizer that will be available.

For a full list of preventive actions you can take to help prevent the spread of respiratory diseases, please visit the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) and the [World Health Organization](#).

- GARE is committed to the safety and well-being of all our members and colleagues especially those who are immuno-compromised, elderly, disabled, or otherwise vulnerable. While we know that anyone can contract the virus, we also know that the impacts on communities of color could be severe. People of color are disproportionately likely to be in low-paying or hourly-wage jobs that make them unable to provide care or interrupt work. They are also more likely to have limited access to affordable healthcare, childcare, and transportation. People of color are more likely to face unsanitary conditions inside prisons, jails, and detention centers. Long-time funding disparities in communities of color have led to hospital closures; shortages of frontline doctors and nurses; higher incidences of chronic conditions, such as hypertension, diabetes, and heart disease; housing overcrowding; and lack of quality elder care.

A set of recommendations to GARE members on the anticipated racialized impact of COVID 19 will be shared soon.

Gordon F. Goodwin, GARE Director