



May 13, 2021

Dear ASCE Institute, Region, Section, Branch, Younger Member and Student Leaders:

It is now more than fifteen (15) months since the Covid-19 pandemic forced changes in our day-to-day conduct unlike anything most of us have experienced in our lifetimes. With the widespread availability of vaccines in the United States and the relaxing of Covid-related restrictions in many localities, I know that many of you are anxious to restore some degree of normalcy to your personal and professional lives—including a resumption of in-person ASCE gatherings.

While ASCE is heartened by the vaccination numbers and the projected decline in Covid-19 cases over the summer months in the United States, we nevertheless believe that our volunteers and members are best served by a cautious approach to reopening. Substantial uncertainty still exists around the world about the impact of new variants, and experts continue to warn that a rush to reopen may result in another surge of infections.

Recognizing again that the health and safety of our global professional community and the public at large remains our foremost responsibility, ASCE has decided to extend its recommendation that ASCE entities **are encouraged to pursue alternate options, such as the use of virtual platforms, for all meetings and events through Labor Day (Monday, September 6, 2021).**

As noted in our previous guidance, decisions to conduct in-person events should be made only after a thorough consideration of how critical in-person involvement is to attain the desired objectives, and the ability to observe all recommended safety protocols and procedures. This of course includes strict compliance with all applicable state and local requirements for gatherings and events as well as current guidelines issued by the Centers for Disease Control.

By now most of you are also aware of the unique benefits offered by virtual activities, including broader availability of speakers and audience, reduced costs, and a smaller carbon footprint. We continue to encourage all leaders to continue virtual meetings as part of your overall strategy for managing your expenses wisely and providing the best possible service to your members and customers.

Note that ASCE staff continue to work remotely, and staff business travel remains restricted, at least through September 6, 2021.

Thank you again for your continued leadership, and we look forward to emerging from this pandemic as a stronger, more engaged, and more versatile professional community.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Briaud".

Jean-Louis Briaud, Ph.D., P.E., D.GE, Dist.M.ASCE
ASCE President

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas W. Smith III".

Thomas W. Smith III, ENV SP, CAE, F.ASCE
Executive Director