



COVID-19 HEALTH OFFICER ORDER REQUIREMENTS – FAQ

WHAT EVENT OPERATORS NEED TO KNOW

Recent updates: (changes highlighted in yellow)

1/20/22: Updated to reflect recent changes to the County Health Officer Order, including:

- Lowered the definition of Mega Events to align with State Guidance. The definition of a Mega Event has changed from 10,000 attendees for outdoor events to 5,000 and from 1,000 at indoor events to 500. Mega Event rules apply to all events at these lowered thresholds, effective 1/15/22.
- No later than January 17, 2022, employees who work in an indoor setting where they are in close contact with other employees or customers must be provided with and required to wear a well-fitting medical grade mask, surgical mask, or higher-level respirator, such as an N95 face filtering respirator or KN95, at all times while indoors at the worksite or facility. The full cost of purchasing an appropriate face mask must be borne entirely by the employer and not the employee.

This Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document is intended to assist Event Operators in complying with the LA County [Health Officer Order](#). This FAQ applies to large events, including Mega Events, which are defined as indoor events that have **500** or more attendees and outdoor events with **5,000** or more attendees. Examples of Mega Events include, but are not limited to: conventions, conferences, expos, concerts, shows, nightclubs, sporting events, live events and entertainment, fairs, festivals, parades, theme parks, amusement parks, water parks, large private events or gatherings, marathons or endurance races, and car shows.

1. What are the requirements in the Health Officer Order and when do they go into effect?

The Health Officer Order requires operators of Mega Events to take additional steps to verify the vaccination status of most of their customers. Below are the requirements that apply to Mega Events and associated operations.

✓ Mega Events:

- ✓ All attendees at Indoor Mega Events (**500+**) must continue to show proof of full vaccination against COVID-19 or a negative viral test result prior to entry. Children under age 2 are exempt.
 - If providing a negative test result, it must be either:
 - A PCR test taken within 2 days of the event; or
 - An antigen test taken within 1 day of the event.
- ✓ All attendees ages 5 and over at Outdoor Mega Events (**5,000+**) must show proof of full vaccination against COVID-19 or a negative viral test result prior to entry. Children under 5 are exempt.
 - If providing a negative test result, it must be either:
 - A PCR test taken within 2 days of the event; or
 - An antigen test taken within 1 day of the event.
- ✓ Operators of Mega Events must cross-check proof of vaccination or negative COVID-19 viral test result against a photo identification for all attendees who are 18 years or older.
- ✓ Attestation is no longer sufficient to prove vaccination or test status.
- ✓ See the DPH [Business Compliance Toolkit](#) for helpful implementation resources. See the [Business COVID-19 Safety Compliance Certificate Program](#) website for training materials.





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2. Why do Mega Events present increased risk?

Mega Events are higher risk for COVID-19 transmission because attendees are spending long periods of time physically close to large numbers of people they don't usually interact with, thereby increasing the risk that respiratory particles will be transmitted between attendees if someone attending is infected.

Risk also increases depending on conditions in the environment. Per published reports, factors that increase the risk of infection, including transmission to people more than 6 feet away, include:

- **Enclosed spaces with inadequate ventilation or air handling** that allow for build-up of exhaled respiratory fluids, especially very fine droplets, and aerosol particles, in the air.
- **Increased exhalation of respiratory fluids** that can occur when an infectious person is engaged in physical exertion or raises their voice (e.g., exercising, shouting, singing).
- **Prolonged exposure** to these conditions.

3. Our venue is located in the City of Los Angeles (LA). How does the LA City Vaccination Ordinance impact events that will occur in LA?

Live indoor performance venues including performing arts theaters, music and concert venues, and adult entertainment venues, that are held in the City of Los Angeles are subject to the [LA City Vaccination Ordinance](#).

However, the LA City Ordinance explicitly states that the Ordinance requirements do not apply to “any location that is required by a DPH Order to check proof of COVID-19 vaccination status prior to providing indoor service.” This means that Indoor Mega Events (indoor events with more than 500 attendees) that occur in the City of Los Angeles are not subject to the Ordinance and must continue to follow the County [Health Officer Order](#) vaccination requirement instead.

All other **entertainment venues and** events that occur in the City of Los Angeles should review and comply with the [LA City Ordinance](#). More information about the LA City Ordinance is available at [SafePass LA](#) and the [FAQ page](#). If you are unsure whether your facility is located in the City of Los Angeles visit <https://appcenter.gis.lacounty.gov/districtlocator/> and type in the address where your event will be held.

4. Which Health Officer Order requirements apply to my event?

Risk varies based on the size of an event and whether it occurs indoors or outdoors. Outdoor events and those with lower numbers of attendees pose less of a risk of transmission compared to large, indoor events. Below is a table that describes the different rules that apply based on these two event characteristics.



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Event Location	Number of attendees	Masking rules	Proof of full vaccination (or negative test)* required for patrons?	Performer requirements?
INDOOR	Under 500	Required for all – vaccinated and unvaccinated Employees in close contact with others must wear a medical grade mask when indoors	Required if venue is located in the City of LA**; otherwise strongly recommended	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Performers may unmask to perform indoors if certain criteria are met. *** Performers may also unmask outdoors. Ideally, performers should be at least 12 feet from audience members.
	500 or more (Mega Event)	Required for all – vaccinated and unvaccinated Employees in close contact with others must wear a medical grade mask when indoors	Required	
OUTDOOR	Under 5,000	Recommended but not required	Recommended	
	5000 or more (Mega Event)	Required for all – vaccinated and unvaccinated	Required	

*A person is fully vaccinated for COVID-19: two weeks or more after they have received their second dose in a 2-dose series (Pfizer or Moderna), two weeks or more after they have received a single-dose vaccine (Johnson and Johnson/Janssen), or two weeks after receipt of another vaccine authorized by the World Health Organization. COVID-19 testing must be conducted on a sample taken within 1 day for an antigen test and within 2 days for a PCR test prior to entry into an event. See the [Business Compliance Toolkit](#) for helpful resources on implementing a vaccination requirement for your business.

**Indoor events with fewer than 500 attendees that are located in the City of LA must comply with the [LA City Vaccination Ordinance](#). See the [SafePass LA](#) website and [FAQ page](#) for more information. If you are unsure whether your facility is in the city of Los Angeles visit <https://appcenter.gis.lacounty.gov/districtlocator/> and type in the address where your event will be held.



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***Performers may unmask during performances only if they are tested regularly. Testing cadence must be as follows:

- Performers that are up to date on their COVID-19 vaccinations (e.g., fully vaccinated and not yet eligible for a booster, or fully vaccinated and, when eligible, have received a booster dose) must be tested once weekly.
- Performers that are fully vaccinated and eligible for a booster dose but have not received one yet must be tested twice weekly.

5. Why is the County Health Officer requiring proof of vaccination to go inside some businesses and to attend Mega events?

The Health Officer is taking this step due to the continued transmission of the more easily spread **Omicron** variant of the virus that causes COVID-19 and the currently high level of community transmission of the disease in the County. Requiring vaccination for those entering certain higher risk businesses will help to reduce community spread, reduce the risk for workers and patrons in these settings, and further encourage residents at risk of infection to get vaccinated. Vaccines are safe and effective, widely available in the County, and the best way to reduce your personal risk of getting and becoming seriously sick from COVID-19. Learn more about COVID-19 vaccines at the [LA County Vaccine](#) webpage.

6. How do businesses verify vaccination status?

Checking for vaccination status applies only to attendees ages 5 years and older. Operators are required to cross-check photo identification and proof of vaccination or negative COVID-19 test results for attendees ages 18 years and older. Businesses subject to the Health Officer Order must check for two things:

- ✓ **Check to see if the name on the vaccination record matches a photo ID of the attendee (if 18+), AND**
- ✓ **Check proof of COVID-19 vaccination for vaccination type and date(s)**
 - If Johnson & Johnson (J&J), verify single dose with date at least 14 days prior to today.
 - If Pfizer or Moderna, verify two doses with dates. The most recent date must be at least 14 days prior to today.

There are a variety of vaccination records that are acceptable as proof:

- ✓ **Vaccine Record Card or Health Record**
 - ✓ CDC COVID-19 Vaccination Record Card
 - ✓ World Health Organization (WHO) Vaccine Record Card
 - ✓ Documentation of vaccination from the healthcare provider or entity that provided the COVID-19 vaccines
 - ✓ California Immunization Registry (CAIR2) Vaccination Record
- ✓ **Digital Vaccination Record**
 - ✓ Issued by the California Department of Public Health
 - ✓ An approved company such as Healthvana or Carbon Health





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See: LA County [Visual Guidance Verifying Proof of COVID-19 Vaccination](#) for images and more detailed information.

7. How do businesses verify pre-entry negative COVID-19 (diagnostic) test results?

This applies to all attendees at Indoor Mega Events and attendees ages 5 years and older at Outdoor Mega Events who do not provide proof of full vaccination against COVID-19. Test results must be provided and verified prior to entry. Children under age 2 are exempt from pre-entry testing requirements.

Mega Event Operators must cross-check attendees' photo identification and proof of vaccination or negative COVID-19 test results; this requirement applies only to attendees ages 18 years and older.

Businesses should take the following steps to confirm an attendee's negative COVID-19 (diagnostic) test results:

- ✓ Confirm the person's name and, if listed, birthdate on the test result matches their photo ID (if 18+), AND the documentation of the COVID-19 (diagnostic) test result must show that:
 - ✓ The test result is negative, AND
 - ✓ The test was taken within the last 2 days (if PCR/NAAT) or 1 day (if antigen), AND
 - ✓ The type of test is COVID-19 or SARS-CoV-2 antigen (Ag) or PCR/NAAT, AND
 - ✓ The result is from a laboratory or healthcare or test provider or patient platform for the healthcare provider (e.g., Healthvana).

See: LA County [Visual Guidance Verifying Proof of a Negative COVID-19 Test](#) for images and more detailed information.

8. Will employees need to keep an attendee's record of vaccine or negative test status or a record of the verification process?

No. By allowing each patron to be seated, receive services, or participate in activities at the facility, the facility owner/management is attesting that the facility has appropriately verified each attendee's vaccination or negative test status prior to entry. The business will be subject to any penalties for noncompliance if it is found that it did not adhere to the proper vaccine verification process.

9. How should attendance be calculated to determine Mega Event status?

Risk of spread at an event increases as the number of people attending increases, with increased close contact between attendees, and as the duration of the event gets longer. Event operators should calculate their event size based on their total number of attendees expected within the event facility or defined event space at any given time. For short duration events (3 hours in duration or less), event operators should count the total number of attendees that are expected at the event with the assumption that all attendees are expected to attend for the entire event duration. For longer duration events, such as events that last 1 or more days, event organizers should base their attendance assessment on the number of people that are expected to attend the event at its peak time. If the anticipated attendance at the event approaches Mega Event size for any given time during the duration of the event, the Event Operator is required to follow Mega Event rules and verify the vaccination status of attendees.



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Event Operators seeking to stay under the Mega Event limit for longer duration events should consider implementing timed ticketing to spread out attendance across the event's duration and deploying staff to monitor areas for crowding and help attendees move through the event.

10. What will happen if a facility is found not verifying vaccination status of patrons and/or staff?

County health inspectors will be visiting and observing the operations of these facilities during normal business hours. Should a health inspector determine that a business is not complying with the Health Officer Order, (such as not verifying vaccination status of all patrons) during the initial visit, the health inspector will document the violation on an inspection report and issue a compliance date by which the violations need to be corrected. If upon a follow-up inspection there is still noncompliance, an Administrative Citation in the amount of \$500 will be issued to the facility, and Public Health will continue to inspect for compliance.

11. Are masks still required indoors after vaccine verification?

Yes, masks are still required indoors even if vaccinated. Masks may be removed while actively eating and drinking. Patrons, customers, or guests must be seated at a table or positioned at a stationary counter, ticketed seat, or place while actively eating or drinking. It is recommended that physical distancing between different parties be implemented to reduce the risk of spread in areas where patrons are permitted to actively eat or drink.

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12. Do you have official signage stating that vaccine or test verification is legally required?

[DPH signage](#) can be found on the [Best Practices to Prevent COVID-19, Guidance for Businesses and Employers](#) page.