

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Executive Office of Mayor Muriel Bowser



Office of the City Administrator

APPLICATION OF MAYOR'S ORDER 2021-099

TO CONTRACTORS AND GRANTEES

Frequently Asked Questions

(as of September 8, 2021)

Version history

August 17, 2021: Initial issuance.

September 8, 2021: Responses to Q5, Q7, Q9, Q11, Q12, and Q14 updated; Q16 deleted; Q17, Q18, and Q19 added.

This document contains answers to frequently asked questions regarding the application of the COVID-19 vaccination requirement imposed by Mayor's Order 2021-099 on certain contractors and grantees of the District government.

The date on which each question and answer was first included in the document is set forth in brackets after the text of the question, along with any dates on which the question or answer was updated.

The Office of the City Administrator will update this document periodically in response to questions received from agencies.

Please email any questions you may have about the application of the Mayor's Order to grantees to your agency grants officer. For questions related to contractors, please email vendor.relations@dc.gov.

Q1: What initial steps are agencies taking to implement the vaccination requirement for contractors and grantees? [08/17/2021]

A1: Agencies should first identify the contractors and grantees of the agency that are subject to the vaccination requirement. (See the response to Q2 for a description of the activities that subject contractors and grantees to this requirement.) OCP has sent a notification to all vendors in the PASS system (including both contractors and grantees that use the system) about the Mayor's Order, and agencies that authorize grants or have independent procurement authority should send additional notice to their contractors and/or grantees using the template provided.

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Q2: Which District government contractors and grantees are subject to the Order’s vaccination requirement? [08/17/2021]

A2: The following categories of District government contractors and grantees are subject to the Order’s vaccination requirements:

- a. District government contractors and grantees who provide services at District government facilities; and
- b. District government contractors and grantees whose work is regularly directed by District government employees and who have in-person contact with other persons in order to complete their work under the contract or grant.

By way of example, contracted food service workers who work at DCPS schools and contracted security personnel who work at District government buildings are subject to the requirement, because they perform their work at District government facilities. In addition, grantees under the COVID-19 Community Corps are subject to the requirement because their work is regularly directed by District government employees and the contract or grant staff have in-person contact with other individuals in order to complete their work.

In contrast, grantees who received emergency funds to maintain business operations that are unrelated to District government functions and whose operations are not directed by District government offices are not covered by the vaccination requirement. Additionally, attorneys and consultants who perform work under a contract with an agency would likely be exempt from this requirement if all of their duties are carried out remotely. Moreover, non-profit organizations that receive grants from or through District government may be exempt if the extent of their interaction with the government is to receive and report on the use of those funds, but otherwise are not operating regularly as an extension or agent of the government.

Q3: Are contractors or grantees required to show proof of vaccination status to enter District government facilities? [08/17/2021]

A3: At this time, there is no requirement to provide proof of vaccination to enter District government facilities.

Q4: How should contractors or grantees track vaccination status, weekly COVID-19 test results, and process exemptions within their organizations? [08/17/2021]

A4: Contractors and grantees are responsible for ensuring that their eligible personnel are in compliance with the vaccine requirement outlined in Mayor’s Order 2021-099, and should manage the tracking and exemption processes internally. However, the Order does not require a particular tracking system and contractors and grantees should develop a process that works for their systems and operations. There is no requirement to preemptively or regularly submit vaccination statuses, test results, or exemption requests to the District at this time.

Q5: Is the requirement as mandated in the Mayor’s Order applicable to volunteers, independent contractors, or subcontractors? [08/17/2021; updated 9/8/2021]

A5: Yes. The Mayor’s Order applies to all agents of a grantee or contractor, including employees and volunteers, to the extent that the agents provide services at a District government facility or their work under the contract or grant is regularly directed by District government employees and they have in-person contact with other persons in order to complete that work. It also applies, to the same extent, to independent contractors and subcontractors of a grantee or contractor.



Q6: I am a contractor or grantee supporting the District government virtually. Does this requirement apply to my employees or me? [08/17/2021]

A6: No, the Mayor's Order does not apply to those contractors or grantees supporting the District government in a solely virtual capacity.

Q7: Is there a vaccination certification form for contractors or grantees to complete? [08/17/2021; updated 9/8/2021]

A7: No, there is currently no requirement to preemptively or regularly send documentation to the District government.

Q8: Will the District provide COVID-19 testing? [08/17/2021]

A8: For information on testing options, please visit: <https://coronavirus.dc.gov/testing>.

Q9: Grantees are not under OCP. Which agency or executive entity will provide further guidance and standardized forms for grantees should they become needed? [08/17/2021; updated 9/8/2021]

A9: Standardized forms and further guidance will be disseminated from grantor agencies to grantees should they become needed. Sample language for solicitations is included in the answer to Question 14 below. Similar language should be included in award letters.

Q10: What records will contractors or grantees be required to maintain for a future audit to prove compliance with the Mayor's Order? [08/17/2021]

A10: At any time, contractors or grantees may be asked by District government to certify their compliance with the vaccination requirement. Therefore, contractors and grantees should maintain and update records as necessary to be able to promptly supply this certification if requested. Grant Administrators or Contracting Officers may provide additional instructions for certifying compliance with the vaccine requirement and may request access to documents and records to audit this certification.

Q11: Will contractors or grantees have to collect proof of vaccination/a doctor's order/negative tests and keep them on file for audits or site visits, or merely collect employee statements? [08/17/2021]

A11: Contractors and grantees should collect proof of vaccination status, test results, and/or documentation of medical or religious exemption as part of their comprehensive auditable files. Contractors and grantees should not send any vaccination certification records to their contracting officer or grant administrator unless requested to do so.

Q12: If one of their employees (i.e., an accountant) is not paid from the contract or grant, but works for the organization on an aspect of the funding (e.g., signature on payroll checks), and they perform work in-person, does the order apply to them? [08/17/2021; updated 9/8/2021]

A12: Grantees should make an initial determination of which of their employees are required to comply with the vaccination certification requirement; those determinations will be subject to agency reviews and audits. The Mayor's Order applies to employees, agents, and subcontractors who provide goods or perform services in person in District government facilities or worksites, or who have in-person contact with other persons in order to provide services or fulfill other obligations under the contract or grant. The following categories of District government contractors and grantees are subject to the Order's vaccination requirements:

- a. District government contractors and grantees who provide services at District government facilities; and



b. District government contractors and grantees whose work is regularly directed by District government employees and who have in-person contact with other persons in order to complete their work under the contract or grant.

Q13: Can a contractor or grantee impose stronger vaccination requirements for their employees? [08/17/2021]

A13: Yes, the Mayor’s Order allows private employers to impose stronger vaccination requirements on their employees, agents, or subcontractors/subgrantees, subject to applicable federal and local laws and regulations.

Q14: What language should I include in my agency’s forthcoming Request for Applications, pending award agreements and notification letters, and natural agreement renewals? [08/17/2021; updated 9/8/2021]

A:14: In all RFAs to be published henceforth, and in all pending award agreements and grant notifications, please include the following text:

The grantee(s) selected in response to this Request for Applications is/are required to comply with Mayor’s Order 2021-099, COVID-19 Vaccination Certification Requirement for District Government Employees, Contractors, Interns, and Grantees, dated August 10, 2021, and all substantially similar vaccine requirements including any modifications to Mayor’s Order 2021-099, unless and until they are rescinded or superseded.

Similar language should be included in all pending award agreements and notification letters, as well as agreement renewals.

Q15: What language should I include in my agency’s forthcoming solicitations and grant award notification renewals? [08/17/2021; updated 9/8/2021]

A15: All solicitations to published henceforth should include the following text:

The Contractor is required to comply with Mayor’s Order 2021-099, COVID-19 Vaccination Certification Requirement for District Government Employees, Contractors, Interns, and Grantees, dated August 10, 2021, and all substantially similar vaccine requirements including any modifications to Mayor’s Order 2021-099, unless and until they are rescinded or superseded. At the request of the District government, Contractors may be asked to provide certification of compliance with this requirement and/or documents and records in support of this certification.

The Contractor is required to comply with City Administrator’s Order 2021-4, Resumption of Requirement for All Persons to Wear a Mask Inside District Government Buildings and While on Duty as a District Government Employee or Contractor, dated July 30, 2021, and all substantially similar mask requirements including any modifications to this Order, unless and until they are rescinded or superseded.

Q16: [Deleted.]

Q17: Does the vaccination certification requirement apply to subgrantees, such as an organization that receives a subgrant of federal grant funds from a District agency? [09/7/2021]



A17: If the grant funds are administered by the District, the vaccination certification requirement applies regardless of the original source of the funding.

Q18: What is a District facility? [9/8/2021]

A18: A District facility is any facility owned or managed by the government of the District of Columbia, including space leased by or otherwise made available to a District agency for its use.

Q19: Do existing grant agreements and contracts need to be reopened and revised to add a vaccination requirement provision? [9/8/2021]

A19: No, at this time existing grant agreements and contracts do not need to be amended to add the vaccination requirement.

