

VaxDC: Vaccination Entry Requirement for Certain Businesses

Beginning January 15, 2022 many DC public businesses will require all patrons aged 12 or older to show proof that they have received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine before they are allowed entry (two doses will be required starting Feb 15th). Establishments must visibly display signage informing patrons that proof of COVID-19 vaccination is required to enter indoors. Signs for businesses can be found at vaxdc.dc.gov.

What types of businesses will be required to check vaccination status?

- **Indoor food and drink establishments, such as:**
 - Restaurants
 - Nightclubs
 - Taverns
 - Food halls/courts
 - Breweries, wineries, and distillery tasting rooms
- **Indoor cultural and entertainment establishments, such as:**
 - Concert, live entertainment venues
 - Sporting venues
 - Movie theaters
 - Pool and billiard halls
 - Bowling alleys
 - Cigar bars
 - Hookah bars
 - Adult entertainment venues
- **Indoor exercise and recreational facilities, such as:**
 - Gyms
 - Fitness Studios
- **Indoor event and meeting establishments, such as:**
 - Hotel common rooms
 - Banquet halls
 - Conference center meeting facilities
 - Convention centers
 - Auditoriums
 - Shared work facilities when hosting events
- **Any other indoor establishment designated by the Director of the DC Department of Health**

Exemptions for providing proof of vaccination

- Only briefly entering (i.e. to use the restroom, pick up an order to go)
- Medically exempt or unable to take the vaccine out of a sincerely held religious belief.
 - **Patrons who have and show documentation of medical or religious exemptions from the COVID-19 vaccine must provide a negative PCR or antigen test within the last 24 hours.**
 - **Documentation of a medical exemption, such as a note from a medical provider.**

- **Documentation of a religious exemption, such as an attestation from the patron that they have a sincerely held religious belief.**

What are acceptable forms of proof of COVID-19 vaccination status?

- **For proof of vaccination, patrons ages 12 years and older must provide:**
 - A CDC issued vaccination card (original, photocopy, or digital copy/photo)
 - Record of immunization from a healthcare provider or public health authority
 - A COVID-19 verification app (e.g., VaxYes, Clear, Excelsior, MyIR)
- **Businesses will also need to verify vaccination with photo identification for patrons ages 18 years and older, such as:**
 - State issued driver's license or limited purpose driver's license
 - Any other state issued identification card
 - Passport
 - DC One Card
 - Student ID

What Businesses or Organizations Do Not Have to Verify Vaccination Status for Entry?

- Retail establishments
- Grocery stores, farmer's markets, and food establishments that provide charitable food services
- Houses of worship
- Homeless shelters and other human services facilities
- Health care facilities and pharmacies
- Private meeting spaces in office buildings or residential buildings
- Gyms and fitness facilities in residential buildings that are not open to the public
- Law enforcement buildings and government offices such as the Department of Motor Vehicles

If an exempt facility conducts a non-exempt activity, the vaccine requirement shall apply.

- For example, if a house of worship is rented for a non-religious purpose, or a retail bookstore hosts an indoor seated event, proof of vaccination would be required to enter the area where the event is being held.

What about kids under 12?

- They are not covered by the order at this time, but parents should get their children 5-11 vaccinated.

Where do we need to display the vaccination requirement signage?

- Signage, which can be downloaded at vaxdc.dc.gov, must be displayed at the entry point of the establishment, such as a door or window.

Where should businesses check for proof of vaccination?

- Businesses must check proof of vaccination at the entry point or at the first point of contact between the customer and a staff member. The safest place to execute the vaccination requirement is at the point of entry and, where possible, before the customer enters.

Does the vaccine requirement apply to employees?

- No, the vaccine requirement does not apply to employees currently.