Recent updates: (changes highlighted in yellow)

3/10/22: Updated to align with the revised County Health Officer Order [Responding Together at Work and in the Community - Post Winter Surge](https://www.lacounty.gov/covid19/health-officer-order). Key changes include the following:

- Outdoor Mega Events are strongly encouraged to continue to require verification of vaccination status or test results, but this is no longer required.
- Indoor masking is strongly recommended but not required. Businesses may choose to maintain the indoor masking requirement.
- Businesses that permit optional indoor masking at their worksites must continue to provide medical masks and respirators for voluntary use to employees who work indoors in close contact with others.
- Businesses that choose to maintain a universal indoor masking policy must provide medical masks to employees.

This Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document is intended to assist Event Operators in complying with the vaccination verification requirements in the LA County Health Officer Order. This FAQ applies to Mega Events, which are defined as indoor events that have 1,000 or more attendees and outdoor events with 10,000 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, amusement parks, large private events or gatherings, marathons or endurance races, and car shows.

1. What are the current vaccination/test verification requirements in the Health Officer Order?

The Health Officer Order requires operators of Indoor Mega Events to verify the vaccination status or a negative test result of most of their customers. The Order was recently revised to strongly recommend that Outdoor Mega Events continue to verify the vaccination status or a negative test result for their customers, but this is not required.

- **Operators of Indoor Mega Events (1,000+ attendees) must continue to require all attendees 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.
  - Operators of Indoor 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.

- **Operators of Outdoor Mega Events are strongly encouraged, but not required, to maintain a process of verifying vaccination status or a negative test result for all attendees ages 5 and over prior to entry.**
  - 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.

See the DPH [Business Compliance Toolkit](https://www.lacounty.gov/covid19/business-compliance-toolkit) for helpful implementation resources.
2. Why do Mega Events present increased risk?

Mega Events, especially Indoor 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. 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event Location</th>
<th>Number of attendees</th>
<th>Masking rules</th>
<th>Proof of full vaccination (or negative test)* required for patrons?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>INDOOR</td>
<td>Under 1,000</td>
<td>Strongly recommended</td>
<td>Employees who are in close contact with others must be provided medical masks and respirators (N95, KN95, KF94)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1,000 or more (Mega Event)</td>
<td>Strongly recommended</td>
<td>Employees who are in close contact with others must be provided medical masks and respirators (N95, KN95, KF94)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OUTDOOR</td>
<td>Under 5,000</td>
<td>Recommended for individuals at higher risk of severe illness if they cannot maintain distance from others</td>
<td>Recommended</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10,000 or more (Mega Event)</td>
<td>Recommended for individuals at higher risk of severe illness if they</td>
<td>Strongly recommended</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**WHAT EVENT OPERATORS NEED TO KNOW ABOUT VACCINE/TEST VERIFICATION**

*A person is fully vaccinated for COVID-19 **two weeks** or more after they have received either: their second dose in a 2-dose series (Pfizer or Moderna), a single-dose of a 1-dose series (Johnson and Johnson/Janssen), or after finishing the primary series of a COVID-19 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.*

**4. 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


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

This applies to all attendees at Indoor 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.

6. 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.

7. 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.

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.

8. 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.

9. Are masks still required indoors after vaccine verification?

No, indoor masking is strongly recommended, but not required in most indoor public settings. The purpose of strongly recommending continued indoor masking is to prevent transmission of the virus, particularly to persons with prolonged, cumulative exposures (e.g., workers) and to persons with higher risk of illness (e.g., unvaccinated, older persons, or those with underlying medical conditions such as immunocompromised persons). Businesses may choose to continue to require universal indoor masking.

**Employees must be provided masks and respirators at no cost to the employee***:

- Employers that permit optional indoor masking at their worksite must provide for voluntary use well-fitting medical masks and respirators, such as an N95, KN95, or KF94 to employees that work in an indoor setting and in close contact with other employees or customers.
- If a business chooses to maintain an indoor masking requirement, employees must be provided with medical masks.
- Upon request, employers are required to provide employees who are not fully vaccinated with a correct-size N95 respirator for voluntary use, along with basic instructions on how to use the N95 respirator.
- Respirators must be replaced if they get damaged, deformed, dirty, or difficult to breathe through, or after 5 uses. For more information about free and low-cost PPE for businesses and organizations visit: [http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/docs/FreeAndLowCostPPE.pdf](http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/docs/FreeAndLowCostPPE.pdf).

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

[DPH signage](http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/docs/FreeAndLowCostPPE.pdf) can be found on the [Best Practices to Prevent COVID-19, Guidance for Businesses and Employers](http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/docs/FreeAndLowCostPPE.pdf) page.