

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

The following information is designed to help business operators, event organizers, and patrons at the impacted locations understand how to comply with the [proof of vaccination ordinance](#) and implement this public health and safety measure.

This FAQ addresses the following questions:

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A. What Types of Locations and Events Does This New Law Apply to?

This Proof of Vaccination law applies to the following public indoor locations:

1. **Establishments or events where food or beverages are served**, including, but not limited to: restaurants, bars, fast food establishments, coffee shops, tasting rooms, cafeterias, food courts whether freestanding or contained within larger businesses such as a grocery store or market hall, breweries, wineries, distilleries, banquet halls, and hotel ballrooms. This does not include a private meeting of fewer than 50 people where food or beverage is provided incidental to the meeting, such as a workshop or seminar;
2. **Gyms and fitness venues**, including, but not limited to: gyms, recreation facilities, fitness centers, yoga, Pilates, cycling, barre, and dance studios, boxing and kickboxing gyms, indoor fitness boot camps, and other facilities used for conducting indoor group fitness classes. Recreational facilities do not include recreation centers in City Parks operated by the City, except classes held at City recreation centers that are exclusively for seniors age 60 and over are considered as a covered location;
3. **Entertainment and recreation venues**, including, but not limited to, movie theaters, music and concert venues, live performance venues, commercial event and party or wedding venues, sports arenas, exhibition halls, performing arts theaters, bowling alleys, arcades, card rooms, family entertainment centers, museums, play areas, pool and billiard halls, and other indoor recreational game centers;
4. **Senior Adult Care Facilities and City Senior Centers;**
5. **Oakland City Hall**

The law also applies to indoor events with more than five hundred (500) attendees (referred to as “Large Indoor Events”).

B. What Does This Law Require a Business Operator or Event Organizer or Host to Do?

Beginning January 15, 2022, a Business Operator or Event Organizer or Host must display prominently in at least two locations on the premises, visible to Patrons prior to entrance, a sign stating that beginning February 1, 2022, Proof of Vaccination is required to enter any indoor portion of the premises. Download and print out a multi-lingual sign [here](#).

Beginning February 1, 2022, a Business Operator or Event Organizer or Host must:

- Verify that each patron twelve (12) years of age has proof of vaccination;
- For a patron seeking a Medical Exemption, verify such exemption and proof of a negative COVID-19 test;
- Develop and keep a written record describing the protocol for implementing and enforcing the Proof of Vaccination requirements of this law, keep such records for one year, and make such record available, upon request, to the Alameda County Public Health Department of Health or City staff.

C. What are the Rules for Checking a Patron’s Proof of Vaccination Based on Age?

Business Operators or Event Organizers or Hosts must check each patron twelve (12) years of age or older for Proof of Vaccination. For patrons eighteen (18) years of age or older, Proof of Vaccination must be cross-checked along with a photo Identification.

D. What Documentation is Required to Verify Proof of Vaccination?

Any one of the following serves as Proof of Vaccination:

1. A vaccination card issued by the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) COVID-19 vaccination card, which includes the name of the person vaccinated, type of vaccine provided, and date last dose administered, or similar documentation issued by a foreign governmental agency;
2. A photo of the vaccination card (both sides) mentioned above printed as a physical photograph or stored on a phone or electronic device;

3. Documentation of vaccination from a licensed healthcare provider; or
4. A personal digital COVID-19 vaccine record issued by the State of California or similar documentation issued by another state, local, or foreign governmental jurisdiction, or by a private company. California residents can visit the State of California's Digital COVID-19 Vaccine Record website at myvaccinerecord.cdph.ca.gov and download a QR Code on a phone.

E. What are Acceptable Forms of Photo Identification to Cross-Check Proof of Vaccination for Patrons Eighteen Years and Older?

An original or copy of an identification card will suffice, including any of the following:

- Driver's License;
- Government (local, state, federal, or foreign) issued identification card;
- School or work identification card;
- Passport

F. Are There Exceptions or Exemptions to the Proof of Vaccination Requirement?

Yes. The exception or exemptions are as follows:

For establishments or events where food or beverages are served, proof of vaccination is not required for someone, wearing a mask to:

- Use the outside portion of the premises, including outdoor dining;
- Use the restroom;
- Order food or drink;
- Pick-up, or pay for food or drink "to-go;"
- Perform necessary repairs.

A Patron at any location or event may also be exempt from the Proof of Vaccination Requirement if they are entitled under any applicable law to a reasonable accommodation for a medical condition by providing:

- a. Verification of Medical Exemption in the form of documentation signed by a licensed medical provider indicating the Patron is excused from receiving any COVID-19 vaccine due to a medical condition or disability; and
- b. Proof of a recent Negative COVID-19 Test in the form of a printed document, email or text message displayed on a phone, from a test provider or laboratory that shows negative results from a test conducted

within 72 hours before entry. The printed document, email, or text message must include the person's name, type of test performed, date of the test, and negative test result; and

- c. Photo Identification.

The Proof of Vaccination Rule does also not apply to a private meeting of fewer than 50 people where food or beverage is provided incidental to the meeting, such as a workshop or seminar.

For City Hall, the following exceptions or exemptions may apply:

1. A Patron may be exempt if they are entitled under any applicable law to a reasonable accommodation for a medical condition or restriction or a sincerely held religious belief. To qualify, a Patron must demonstrate eligibility as follows:
 - a. To be eligible medical exemption, the Patron must provide Verification of Medical Exemption; or
 - b. To be eligible for a religious, the Patron must provide a letter signed by the patron, under penalty of perjury stating that the patron has a sincerely held religious belief that qualifies the Patron for an exemption.

2. A Patron who does not provide either Proof of Vaccination or the exemptions provided above will be provided alternative arrangements for access to government services, to be determined on a case-by-case basis, including but not limited to, online or remote service, service outdoors, or providing Proof of recent Negative COVID-19 Test prior to entering any Indoor Portion of City Hall and wearing a mask.

3. The Proof of Vaccination requirement for City Hall access does not apply to members of the public attending a City Council meeting or other meeting subject to the Brown Act and Sunshine Ordinance. In lieu of a vaccination proof requirement for such meetings, the City may impose appropriate measures that are in compliance with the Brown Act and Sunshine Ordinance which may include limitations on capacity, temperature checks, social distancing, mask requirements, and the provision of equivalent viewing and public comment options.

4. This section does not apply to any individual City employee, intern, or volunteer subject to the City's COVID-19 Vaccination Requirement for Employees, Interns, and Volunteers (City of Oakland Administrative Instruction 593).

G. How Does the Law Apply to the Oakland Coliseum and Arena?

For the Arena, Patrons must show Proof of Vaccination if they are attending a large indoor event or an indoor public location at the Arena where food or beverages are served (but not if such food or beverage service is strictly provided "to-go" or for pick-up). For such events or locations, business operators or event organizers or hosts must verify Proof of Vaccination for Patrons and meet the other requirements set forth in questions B and C above.

At the Coliseum, Proof of Vaccination is not required upon entry. However, a Business Operator or Event Organizer or Host must verify Proof of Vaccination for Patrons entering an indoor public location in the Coliseum where food or beverage are served (but not if such food or beverage service is strictly provided "to-go" or for pick-up) and meet the other requirements set forth in questions B and C above.

H. Must Patrons Show Proof of Vaccination to Enter City Recreation Facilities?

The Recreational facilities subject to this law do not include recreation centers, including those with pools, in City Parks operated by the City, except classes held at City recreation centers that are exclusively for seniors age 60 and over.

I. In Addition to City Hall, Must Patrons Show Proof of Vaccination to Enter Other City Buildings Open to the Public?

No. Aside from City Hall and City recreation centers that are exclusively for seniors age 60 or over, Proof of Vaccination is not required. Proof of Vaccination is not required for Patrons to visit the following City buildings: 150 and 250 Frank H Ogawa Plaza, the Police Administration Building, the Eastmont Police Substation, and all City Libraries.

J. Does the Proof of Vaccination Ordinance require booster shots?

No. An individual is considered Fully Vaccinated at least two weeks after receiving a second dose of the Pfizer or Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine or two weeks after receiving the single dose of the Johnson & Johnson Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine.

K. May I get an exemption from having to prove my vaccination status?

The law authorizes a medical exemption but not other sorts of exemptions. Since the current law is structured this way, please contact the offices of Council President Bas and Councilmember Kalb with any legislative changes you would suggest.

L. When does the Proof of Vaccination Ordinance end?

The Ordinance will expire when the City of Oakland's Declaration of Local Emergency in response to COVID-19 is lifted by the Oakland City Council.

M. Do delivery drivers need to show Proof of Vaccination?

No. As detailed in F above, patrons that are picking up food do not have to have their vaccination status verified. Similarly, an individual delivering goods and supplies to a business does not have to have their status verified (unless they are also there to eat or drink).

N. Do police officers, firefighters and other life safety personnel need to show Proof of Vaccination?

While carrying out [their official duties](#), such as a law enforcement response or investigation, firefighting, emergency medical services, or enforcement of building, health, and safety codes, City and non-City employees do not need to show Proof of Vaccination when entering locations subject to this Ordinance. However, if they are entering a covered location while not carrying out their official duties, such as eating in a restaurant, whether on or off duty, they must show Proof of Vaccination at locations subject to this Ordinance.