

November 2021 Vaccination Update

Starting November 15th, a new Washington state requirement will require vaccination verification for attendance at large gatherings. Last week, King County joined several jurisdictions across the country that have already implemented a vaccine verification policy, including New York City, San Francisco, New Orleans, Honolulu, Los Angeles County, Clallam and Jefferson counties in Washington state, the State of California, and British Columbia in Canada.

Starting [last week](#), customers in King County must verify full vaccination status or a have a negative test result in order to participate in large outdoor public events and some indoor entertainment and recreational activities. The Health Order requires either verification of full vaccination or proof of negative test administered with the past 72 hours to enter the following locations:

- Outdoor events with 500 people or more—such as professional and collegiate sports and entertainment events.
- Indoor entertainment and recreational events or establishments—such as professional and collegiate sports, entertainment, performing arts, museums, theatre, live music, gyms, and conferences/conventions.
- Indoor dining at restaurants and bars—this does not apply to outdoor dining, take-out customers, and places that aren't primarily used as a restaurant, such as grocery stores.

The Health Order defines full vaccination as two weeks after the second dose of Pfizer or Moderna vaccine or two weeks after one dose of Johnson & Johnson vaccine, or two weeks after completing another approved COVID-19 vaccine. No personal identification with proof of vaccination will be required. Employees at covered establishments are not required to be vaccinated under this order. Individuals under 12 years of age, who are not eligible to be vaccinated, are not required to be tested.

Several forms of vaccination proof will be permitted under the Order, including:

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention COVID-19 vaccination record card, a photo or photocopy of card.
- Other official immunization record from within or outside the United States, including from your health care or vaccine provider. A photo or photocopy of this card is also acceptable.
- Digital record or printed certificate from [MyIRMobile.com](https://www.myrmobile.com) or other apps. (MyIR Mobile is currently limited to English language only. For language assistance, or additional help getting your records, call the Washington State Vaccine Helpline at 833-VAX-HELP (833-829-4357) or email waisrecords@doh.wa.gov).

The Order gives the option for a longer preparation period for smaller restaurants and bars with a seating capacity of 12 or less, with an implementation date of December 6.

The entire Order is temporary, and will be reviewed no later than six months after the October 25 implementation date to assess its continued need based on future outbreak conditions.

Since the [vaccine verification policy](#) was announced in September, King County has continued to work with community partners, businesses, and cities. In particular, Public Health–Seattle & King County partnered with the Seattle Metro Chamber of Commerce to launch [KC Vax Verified](#), a website with resources to help businesses prepare for and implement the new health order, including downloadable posters to make customers and staff aware of the new policy. “Throughout the pandemic, businesses have continued to be innovative and resilient as they navigate ways to keep our community safe,” according to Rachel Smith, president and CEO of the Seattle Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce.

The Seattle Metro Chamber’s [toolkit](#) supports businesses in their efforts to comply with the vaccine verification order and King County offers these additional resources:

- [Vaccine verification homepage](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions on vaccine verification](#)
- [Local Health Officer Order – Vaccine Verification \(September 16, 2021\)](#)
- [Vaccine Verification Posters](#) (available in English, Amharic, Arabic, Chinese, Korean, Russian, Somali, Spanish, Filipino, Ukrainian, and Vietnamese)

Washington Health Alliance Executive Director Nancy Giunto says, “The Alliance has been an active partner in King County and Seattle Metro Chamber’s efforts since the beginning of this collaboration and we have received feedback from many of our members who appreciate the support it provides.”

An [analysis](#) by the University of Washington's Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation conducted for King County found that the vaccine verification policy could have a significant [positive impact](#), preventing between 17,900 and 75,900 infections, between 421 and 1,760 hospitalizations, and between 63 and 257 deaths.