

Entry to Venues and Events Requirements - Implications for Licensed Premises

The Entry to Venues and Events Regulations require that the person responsible for a relevant venue or event must take reasonable measures to ensure that visitors aged 18 or over provide evidence that either they have:

- Completed a full course of an approved COVID-19 vaccination, (this does not currently include requirement for booster vaccination); or Taken a test provided by NHS Test and Trace test in the 48 hours prior to visiting a venue and received a negative result or
- A small number of exemptions for medical reasons (**whose exemption has been clinically reviewed**) and for those on clinical trials.

Proof of Covid Status

Covid Status can be demonstrated through digital and non-digital COVID Pass based on coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccination details, test results, medical exemption or clinical trial participation. **Customers should not bring lateral flow devices to prove status.**

Settings where certification applies

Mandatory vaccine-only certification has been introduced in the following settings, venues and events:

- **All nightclubs and other venues open after 1am with alcohol, music and dancing.**
- **Indoor events with 500 or more attendees:** events at indoor settings with 500 or more attendees where attendees are likely to stand or move around or have no allocated seating.
- **Outdoor events with 4,000 or more attendees:** events at outdoor settings with 4,000 or more attendees where attendees are likely to stand or move around and have no allocated seating.
- **Very large events with 10,000 or more attendees:** events at settings with 10,000 or more attendees, whether indoor or outdoor, irrespective of how many attendees are seated

Nightclubs, dance halls and discotheques

Nightclubs, dance halls and discotheques are required to implement certification when hosting indoor events, irrespective of the number of attendees. In addition, any other setting that shares specified characteristics with these venues. This would be determined by a setting meeting **all** of the following criteria:

1. Is open between 1am and 5am
2. Serves alcohol during this period
3. Has a dance floor or space for dancing to be used by members of the public
4. Provides music for that dancing

There are some settings that are exempt from requirements to use certification, including:

- Communal worship, wedding ceremonies, funerals and other commemorative events.
- Free, un-ticketed outdoor events in public spaces, including street parties, protests and mass participation sporting events would also be exempt.

Indoor events with 500 or more attendees

Events at indoor settings with 500 or more attendees where those attending the event are likely to stand or move around during all or part of the event. This would not include where someone only leaves their seat to go to the bathroom, obtain food or drink, or leave the event.

**Settings are regarded as 'indoor' based on the definition provided by existing Smoke-free (Premises and Enforcement) Regulations 2006.*

Outdoor events with 4,000 or more attendees

Events at outdoor settings with 4,000 or more attendees where those attending the event are likely to stand or move around during all or part of the event. As per indoor events with 500 or more attendees, this also would not include events at outdoor settings where someone only leaves their seat to go to the bathroom, obtain food or drink, or leave the event.

Very large events with over 10,000 or more attendees

Events at settings with 10,000 or more attendees, whether indoor or outdoor and irrespective of how many of these attendees were standing.

Exempt events

A number of events are exempt from mandatory certification requirements. These would be:

- communal worship, wedding and civil partnership ceremonies and equivalents (including alternative wedding ceremonies), funerals, and commemorative events
- wedding receptions and other significant life-cycle events (such as a bar and bat mitzvah, mehndi ceremony or christening)
- outdoor events in public spaces where these are un-ticketed and not charged for (such as street parties, protests, carnivals and marathons)
- events in private dwellings (and private gardens) where these are free and un-ticketed
- dance or exercise classes, ballroom dancing, amateur or professional dance performances, or any other exempt event.

Workforce requirements

It is strongly recommended that every person aged 18 or over providing services in person in venues where certification applies would be expected to either be:

- fully vaccinated;
- exempt (for medical reasons, or as a result of clinical trial participation in a COVID-19 vaccine trial); or
- undertaking regular, supervised testing.

Who will be required to show the NHS COVID Pass

- All visitors aged 18 and over to places where certification was required, have to demonstrate their vaccination status. They would have to be fully vaccinated or exempt.
- Individuals are fully vaccinated **after a period of 14 days** has passed since the final dose.
- Booster jabs would not be required in order to be considered fully vaccinated.
- Anyone under 18 years of age would not be required to demonstrate their vaccination status (under 18's may not commonly have ID and therefore would not need to show proof of age).

There are a small number of other individuals that would not have to demonstrate vaccine status to enter places where certification is required, although they may be asked for proof of identification. These would include:

- **Police officers** acting in their official capacity
- **Local authority officers and emergency services responders** attending in their official duties
- **Diplomats** or someone working for an international organisation.

The following groups of individuals are exempt from vaccination:

- UK COVID-19 vaccine clinical trial participants and vaccine clinical trial participants who have taken part in a clinical trial in another country whose proof of participation is recognised for UK border purposes
- the small proportion of people who should not be vaccinated for medical reasons, **whose exemption has been clinically reviewed**
- Individuals should only apply for a medical exemption if they have **a genuine medical reason** (not just because they are averse to getting vaccinated).

Proof of certification

The NHS COVID Pass can be checked visually or scanned using the NHS COVID Pass Verifier app. The verifier app enables venues to validate a customer's COVID-19 status by scanning the 2D barcode presented on the NHS App, on a pass that has been downloaded to a smartphone wallet or the PDF download.

If you do not comply with your legal obligations in relation to carrying out mandatory COVID-19 status checks at your venue or event, local authorities can take enforcement action, including prosecution or issue fixed penalty notices up to £10,000. In addition, local authorities have powers to issue Coronavirus Improvement Notices, Restriction Notices and Immediate Restriction Notices.

The links below are to the GOV.UK web pages for further advice and guidance on complying with the new rules.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/working-safely-during-covid-19/restaurants-pubs-bars-nightclubs-and-takeaway-services>

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/carrying-out-mandatory-covid-19-status-checks-at-your-venue-or-event>