

## **Guidance for Recreation Programming and the Cook County Vaccine Mandates**

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On January 3, 2022, Cook County Public Health issued a [Public Health Order](#) requiring vaccines for patrons of dining, entertainment, and fitness facilities. Please reference the full order and the [Cook County Mitigation Guidance](#) for complete details. The public health order affects municipal-run facility rentals in which food is served, fitness centers, and adult programming. The public order update clarifies exemptions for proof of vaccination to include:

- An individual 18 years of age or younger who enters a business subject to this Order to participate in a school activity or after-school program offered by any pre-kindergarten through 12th grade public or non-public school.
- Any individual 18 years of age or younger participating in youth athletics or recreation, unless such athletic event or recreational activity takes place in an establishment where food or drink is served for consumption throughout the establishment (ex. Concessions sold for consumption throughout an entertainment venue)
- Any individual participating in recreation programs though special recreation for individuals with disabilities.

It is acceptable to verify validity of vaccine cards in advance of a program at time of registration then to retain that information for the duration of the program. To assist with implementation of this order, it is advised to communicate these updates through your means of program and rental registrations (via the registration website, brochure, etc.) and include the following information:

### **Indoor settings where food or drink are served for on-premises consumption, and health and fitness centers:**

- Businesses must require any individual 5 years of age and older to show proof that they are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 with an approved vaccine in order to enter the establishment.
- Businesses must require Patrons aged 16 and older to show identification (including but not limited to driver's license, passport, government ID, work or school ID) with information that corresponds to the vaccination proof.

### **Proof of vaccination means:**

- A CDC COVID-19 Vaccination Record Card; or
- An official immunization record from the jurisdiction, state, or country where the vaccine was administered; or
- An 'app' that provides a digital record of vaccinations; or
- A digital or physical photo of such a card or record that includes the individual's name, the vaccine brand administered, and the date the vaccination was administered.

### **Exemptions – Individuals:**

- Individuals who have previously received a medical exemption, as long as proof of the medical exemption and a COVID-19 test administered by a medical professional within the last 24 hours prior to entering a business covered by the Order are provided to the business upon entry.

The order also offers a few ways to help the public and employees with collecting this information:

- Businesses must post signage advising patrons of this vaccine requirement. Such signage must be posted at all entrances to the premises as well as prominently posted in an area visible to patrons and staff within the establishment.
- Businesses may, in the interests of efficiency, allow patrons to provide the required vaccination proof prior to entry, either directly to the business itself or through an intermediary such as an event planner.
- Businesses must develop a written protocol providing details for how they will enforce this Order.

Additionally, the current State [Executive Order](#) that requires face coverings in all indoor public facilities should continue to be followed. Please refer to IRMA's [COVID-19 webpage](#) for reliable and current information regarding COVID-19. Our team is also available to answer questions or review policies if needed.