

City of Los Angeles SafePassLA
Rules and Regulations - Frequently Asked Questions
As of December 21, 2021

This Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document is intended to assist covered locations in complying with SafePassLA (Ordinance No. 187219 and No. 187306), which requires patrons of covered locations to demonstrate proof of full vaccination against COVID-19 before entering indoor spaces and large outdoor events within the City of Los Angeles.

SafePassLA only requires patrons of businesses to show proof of vaccination. Employees are not included in the SafePassLA program and therefore employers are not required to verify proof of vaccination for their employees, although they are strongly encouraged to do so. SafePassLA is effective November 8, 2021. Enforcement begins November 29, 2021.

This FAQ has been updated since the original version of October 28, 2021. Highlighted text shows these changes.

Types of Establishments and Settings

1. What is SafePassLA?

SafePassLA is the set of requirements set forth in the Los Angeles Municipal Code, Section 200.120 et seq., which specifies that certain locations in the City of Los Angeles verify proof of a full COVID-19 vaccination prior to providing indoor service to patrons, and that outdoor large events verify proof of full vaccination or proof of a negative COVID-19 test.

2. What types of entities need to ask for proof of a COVID-19 vaccination under SafePassLA?

- The indoor portions of the following locations in the City of Los Angeles:
 - A. Establishments where food or beverages are served, including but not limited to, restaurants, bars, fast food establishments, coffee shops, tasting rooms, cafeterias, food courts, breweries, wineries, distilleries, banquet halls, and hotel ballrooms;
 - B. Gyms and fitness venues, including, but not limited to gyms, recreation facilities, fitness centers, yoga, pilates, cycling, barre, and dance studios, hotel gyms, boxing and kickboxing gyms, fitness boot camps, and other facilities used for conducting indoor group fitness classes;
 - C. Entertainment and recreation venues, including, but not limited to, movie theaters, music and concert venues, live performances venues, adult entertainment venues, commercial event and party venues, sports arenas,

convention centers, exhibition halls, museums, ~~malls, shopping centers,~~ performing arts theaters, bowling alleys, arcades, card rooms, family entertainment centers, play areas, pool and billiard halls, and other recreational game centers; and

D. Personal care establishments, including spas, nail salons, hair salons, barbershops, tanning salons, estheticians, skin care and cosmetology services, body art professionals, piercing shops, and massage therapy, except as medically required.

- Outdoor events in the City of Los Angeles with an attendance between 5,000 and 9,999 individuals.

3. When does a covered location need to check for vaccination status?

Businesses must check for proof of vaccination upon the patron's first in-person interaction with staff. Outdoor events must check for proof of vaccination prior to entering the event.

4. What does fully vaccinated mean?

14 or more days after completing the entire recommended series of vaccination. 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.

5. What spaces are considered "indoors?"

"Indoor" spaces are those that have a roof or overhang and three or more walls. However, for purposes of SafePassLA, the following structures are considered outdoors, and operators do not need to check vaccination status at these locations:

- Structures on a sidewalk or roadway and entirely open on the side facing the sidewalk. (Warehouse type buildings with garage door openings facing the sidewalk are still considered indoor spaces.)
- An outdoor dining structure designed for individual parties (such as plastic domes) so long as the dome has adequate ventilation to allow for air circulation.

If a venue has both indoor and outdoor portions, only the indoor portion is covered by the SafePassLA requirements.

6. If my business is covered under SafePassLA, do I still have to require my patrons to wear masks when not actively eating or drinking?

Yes. SafePassLA does not modify any Health Orders issued by the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health.

7. If a covered location is being rented by a house of worship for a religious event, does the event organizer need to verify proof of vaccination?

No.

8. Does a house of worship need to require proof of vaccination at an indoor wedding reception or other gathering where food or drinks are being served?

Yes. The proof of vaccination requirement applies to indoor gatherings of all sizes hosted by houses of worship where food or drink are being served, such as a wedding reception. For clarity, proof of vaccination is not required where food or drink are served indoors briefly only as part of a religious ceremony (e.g., communion or kiddush).

9. What if the house of worship rents out its space to a non-religious event?

If the event qualifies as a covered location (for example, food or beverages are served indoors) then the event must follow SafePassLA guidelines.

10. I own a food service establishment that only offers take-out or delivery. Does my location have to comply with SafePassLA?

No.

11. My food service establishment only has outdoor dining, do I have to follow SafePassLA rules?

No.

12. My food service establishment offers both dine-in and take-out service. How do I comply with SafePassLA?

A covered location does not need to verify proof of vaccination for any individual ordering or picking up food to-go. However, they must wear a face mask while indoors. The covered location will need to verify proof of vaccination for any individual who wishes to dine in the indoor portion of the location.

13. Does a food retailer, such as a grocery store or other food market, need to check proof of vaccine?

SafePassLA applies to patrons who use an area for indoor dining. For example, a grocery store that provides table and chairs for patrons to sit and eat inside must check proof of vaccination for any patrons who use that area, if the business chooses to keep that area open for use.

14. Does SafePassLA apply to indoor dining, entertainment, personal care, and fitness settings in residences?

If the location is in a private residential building and only available to residents, SafePassLA does not apply.

15. Does SafePassLA apply to private clubs?

SafePassLA applies to any area inside the club that would qualify as a covered location, such as indoor areas where food or beverages are served or areas that contain an indoor gym or fitness venue.

16. What if an establishment has both indoor and outdoor areas?

If an establishment has both indoor and outdoor areas (for example, an indoor fitness center with an outdoor pool or a museum with indoor and outdoor spaces for patrons), only the indoor portion is covered by the SafePassLA requirements.

17. How does SafePassLA impact large outdoor events?

Outdoor events held at venues with a cumulative attendance over the period of the event between 5,000 and 9,999 are required to follow SafePassLA. Patrons are permitted to show a negative COVID-19 test taken within 72 hours of entry in lieu of proof of vaccination.

18. Are cafeterias and break rooms only accessible by employees covered by SafePassLA?

No.

19. What if an establishment is being used as a polling site for an election?

Polling sites do not require proof of vaccination of any individual who enters the establishment in order to vote, accompany a voter, or observe the election.

Verifying Proof of Vaccination

20. Can I pre-check my patrons before they arrive at the establishment?

No. Covered locations are required to check for vaccination status upon the first in-person interaction with staff. Outdoor event operators must verify proof of vaccination or a negative COVID-19 test in person, prior to entry to the event.

21. Who must display proof of a COVID-19 vaccination?

Individuals 12 years of age and older. An individual who recently turned 12 years old must show proof of a COVID-19 vaccination beginning 8 weeks after their 12th birthday.

22. Does SafePassLA require employees of covered locations to show proof of vaccination to their employer?

No.

23. Does SafePassLA require patrons who enter a covered location to pick up food “to-go” to show proof of vaccination?

Individuals who need to access the indoor portion of a covered location for a brief period of time do not need to show proof of vaccination for the following reasons:

- To use the restroom.
- To pick up a to-go order.
- To perform a service, such as check utilities, repairs, and deliveries.

These individuals must wear a face mask while indoors.

24. Do I need to check the identification of patrons along with their proof of vaccination?

Yes, but only if they appear over 18 years old. Acceptable forms of identification include the following:

- Driver's License
- Government Identification
- School or Work Identification
- Passport

Individuals may also show copies of their identification, including a photograph on their phone or by using an app that allows them to display a copy of their identification.

25. What about students **12 years and over who are on a school trip (such as a museum) or participating in an after-school program?**

Students may enter an establishment without displaying proof of vaccination when on a field trip or participating in an after-school program.

However, these students must continue to follow the County Health Officer's Orders regarding vaccine verification at certain Indoor or Outdoor Mega Events. **At the time this FAQ was prepared, only those 12 and older are eligible for a COVID-19 vaccine.**

26. Are individuals allowed to use the bathroom or a locker room to change clothes without showing proof of vaccination?

Yes.

27. Do I need to check proof of vaccination for suppliers or vendors?

A covered location does not need to check proof of vaccination for individuals making deliveries or pickups, providing services or repairs, or for emergency or regulatory purposes. They must wear a face mask while indoors.

28. Do I need to check proof of vaccination for a customer picking up a to-go order?

A covered location does not need to check proof of vaccination for individuals entering an indoor facility for the sole purpose of getting to the outdoor portion of the facility, using the restroom, or picking up items such as food for takeout or delivery. Such individuals must wear a well-fitted mask.

29. Is vaccination verification required for private parties at a covered location?

Yes, vaccination verification and existing mask requirements apply to all indoor private parties that are held within any location covered by SafePassLA.

30. Will covered locations need to verify vaccination status for regulatory and repair service technicians entering the indoor area to perform a service? For example, water, and gas repair and maintenance contractors?

No. Temporary visitors that are in the facility to provide a regulatory or repair service will not be required to show proof of vaccination to enter indoor spaces of a facility. They must wear a face mask while indoors.

31. Will covered locations need to verify vaccination status for government workers entering a covered location?

No. Government employees who enter buildings for the purpose of performing official government duties are not covered by SafePassLA.

32. Does a covered location need to keep a patron's record of vaccine status or a record of the verification process?

No.

33. Do individuals need to show proof of vaccination to enter Los Angeles Police or Fire Department facilities?

No.

34. Do individuals need to show proof of vaccination to enter homeless facilities or food pantries?

No. Government agencies and other entities operating homeless shelters or similar facilities that house or provide meals or other necessities of life to individuals experiencing homelessness are not required to verify proof of vaccination. **Cooling centers are also exempt from SafePassLA.**

35. Do individuals need to show proof of vaccination before entering LAX or any property controlled by Los Angeles World Airports, including Van Nuys Airport?

No.

36. What about nonresident performing artists, nonresident members of a professional athlete/sports team, and those nonresidents who are accompanying an artist, athlete/sports team. Do these individuals need to show proof of vaccination at the venue in which they are performing?

No.

37. Does SafePassLA apply to film crews who are filming at covered locations?

On-location filming sometimes occurs in facilities that are subject to SafePassLA, such as restaurants. On-location film productions are not subject to SafePassLA requirements as long as either: 1) the facility is closed to the public during use by the production, or 2) the area used by the production is defined and separated from the area used by the public, including use of a separate entrance. All other relevant COVID-19 related health orders still apply (such as indoor masking) as well as Cal/OSHA requirements.

38. A customer presents a digital COVID-19 vaccine record that includes a QR code. Am I required to scan the QR code to follow SafePassLA rules?

No. You are not required to scan the QR code. As long as the digital record has the individual's name, type of vaccine provided, and date of the last dose administered, or similar

documentation issued by a foreign governmental agency, then you are in compliance with SafePassLA.

Types of Proof of Vaccination

39. What types of proof of vaccination are sufficient?

1. A vaccination card issued by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), or similar documentation issued by another foreign governmental agency, such as the World Health Organization.
2. A photocopy of a vaccination card or a photograph stored on a phone or electronic device.
3. 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.
4. Documentation of a COVID-19 vaccination from a healthcare provider.

40. What if an individual refuses to show proof of vaccination?

An individual who refuses to show proof of vaccination may not enter the indoor area except for a quick and limited purpose, such as using the bathroom, picking up food, paying a bill, or changing in a locker room. The individual should also be wearing a mask.

41. What kind of proof must be shown to demonstrate a negative COVID-19 test?

Patrons can show a negative COVID-19 test in lieu of proof of vaccination to enter a large outdoor event with a cumulative attendance over the period of the event between 5,000 and 9,999. A negative COVID-19 test can also be used by patrons with a valid medical or religious exemption to enter an indoor area, if an outdoor space is not available.

Test results must be on a printed document, email, or text message displayed on a phone from a test provider or laboratory that shows results of a PCR or antigen COVID-19 test that was 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.

Examples of a negative COVID-19 test result can be found [here](http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/media/Coronavirus/docs/HOO/Proof_neg_test.pdf).
(http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/media/Coronavirus/docs/HOO/Proof_neg_test.pdf)

A patron may not use a self-test/at-home test.

Required Signs and Documents

42. Is there any required signage for businesses to post?

Yes. An establishment covered by SafePassLA, must post a sign that notifies patrons about the vaccination requirement. An establishment may post a sign made available online at [SafePassLA.org](https://www.safepassla.org).

An establishment may also create its own sign, which must be at least 8.5 x 11 inches, use at least 20-point font, and include this text: "The City of Los Angeles requires you to be vaccinated against COVID-19 to enter this business. For more information regarding proof of vaccination, visit [SafePassLA.org](https://www.safepassla.org)."

43. Where do I need to post the sign?

The sign must be posted in a location that is easily visible by patrons before they enter the indoor area.

44. Does SafePassLA require covered businesses to have a plan for how they will comply with checking for proof of vaccination?

Yes. SafePassLA requires businesses to keep a written record describing the protocol for implementing and enforcing the ordinance. A printed copy of this FAQ located at the business also satisfies this requirement.

Equitable Implementation & Reasonable Accommodations

45. Do I need to provide any reasonable accommodations to patrons?

A patron may be exempt from demonstrating proof of a COVID-19 vaccination if they are entitled to reasonable accommodation under an applicable law due to a medical condition or a sincerely held religious belief.

To be eligible for an exemption due to a medical condition or a sincerely held religious belief, a patron must provide the covered location with a verbal self-attestation that they qualify for the exemption. A covered location does not need to verify the validity of a self-attestation or ask for any documentation to confirm the exemption.

If the covered location determines that the patron has met the requirements of the exemption, the patron should be directed to use an outdoor area.

If an outdoor area is not available, the patron may be permitted to use an indoor area by providing proof of a negative COVID-19 test taken 72 hours prior to entry, along with photo identification.

Resources for Businesses

46. Is there any financing to help me with additional costs related to this ordinance?

The Economic and Workforce Development Department (EWDD) [LA CARES Corps](https://ewddlacity.com/index.php/lacarescorps) (<https://ewddlacity.com/index.php/lacarescorps>) has resources to assist your business with financing needs.

47. What if I need to hire additional staff?

EWDD's BusinessSource, WorkSource and YouthSource Centers are here to assist you. Find out more [here](https://ewddlacity.com/index.php/employment-services). (<https://ewddlacity.com/index.php/employment-services>)

Enforcement

48. What should a restaurant or other private business do when a customer refuses to show proof of vaccination?

If a customer refuses to show their proof of vaccination, staff at a covered location should try to offer an alternative service method.

For example, a restaurant may offer the option to dine outdoors or to take the order to-go.

In the case of a gym, the operator may offer an outdoor fitness area, if available.

If there is a verbal or physical altercation that appears to threaten life or property, businesses should call 911 to report an emergency situation.

49. How will SafePassLA requirements be enforced?

Inspectors from the Department of Building and Safety, and any authorized agents, will enforce the ordinance beginning on November 29, 2021.

50. Are there any penalties for noncompliance?

An operator of a covered location or outdoor large event may be issued a citation for failure to comply with the ordinance. The Administrative Citation schedule is as follows:

1. A warning and a notice to correct for a first violation.

2. An administrative fine of \$1,000 for a second violation.
3. An administrative fine of \$2,000 for a third violation.
4. An administrative fine of \$5,000 for a fourth and each subsequent violation.

A business that receives a Notice to Correct or Citation is required to post the Notice to Correct or Citation at the entrance of the business for 30 days.

51. How can I submit a complaint to the City that a business is not following SafePassLA rules?

Complaints can be submitted to the Department of Building and Safety via this [link](https://www.ladbsservices2.lacity.org/SafePassLA) (<https://www.ladbsservices2.lacity.org/SafePassLA>).

Getting Vaccinated

52. Where can I learn more about the COVID-19 vaccine?

The COVID-19 vaccine is safe, effective and free. Learn more by visiting the [Los Angeles County Department of Public Health](http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/media/Coronavirus/vaccine/) (<http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/media/Coronavirus/vaccine/>) or by calling (833) 540-0473.

53. The County has a proof of vaccination health order. How does that health order impact the City's ordinance?

The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health issued a Health Order that requires certain businesses to verify proof of vaccination. To find out more, please visit the Department of Public Health at publichealth.lacounty.gov.

SafePassLA does not cover any locations that are required by the County's Public Health Order to verify proof of vaccination.