



COVID-19 Health Order FAQs

Revision date: October 27, 2021

OVERVIEW

We are pleased to provide you with the following frequently asked questions (FAQs) to help you understand the health requirements, implementation, and onsite execution necessary for your event. In addition to the government mandates described below, any additional COVID-19 precautions or mitigation strategies are at the discretion and possible expense of show management of events contracted in the Washington State Convention Center (the Center).

1. MANDATES AND HEALTH ORDERS

King County/City of Seattle

A health order issued by Public Health - Seattle & King County requires verification of full vaccination status, or a negative COVID-19 test to enter indoor entertainment and recreational establishments and events such as live music, performing arts, gyms, restaurants, bars, and convention centers. This requirement is in effect as of October 25, 2021. The order, issued by Health Officer Dr. Jeff Duchin, will be in effect for up to 6 months and reevaluated at that time, or sooner based on conditions. The full text of the order is found here:

<https://kingcounty.gov/depts/health/covid-19/~media/depts/health/communicable-diseases/documents/C19/LHO-proof-of-vaccination.ashx>

State of Washington

A statewide mask requirement went into effect on August 23, 2021. In accordance with the Governor's Emergency Proclamation 20-25 and Order 20-03.5 amendment, every person in Washington must wear a face covering when they are in a place that is generally accessible to any person from outside their household, subject to specific exceptions and exemptions.

Capacity restrictions for indoor events with attendance at or above 10,000 are in effect, as outlined in the Roadmap for Recovery, found here:

<https://www.governor.wa.gov/sites/default/files/HealthyWashington.pdf>

U.S. Government

We anticipate an emergency order from OSHA/Department of Labor that will require companies of more than 100 employees to be fully vaccinated or provide proof of negative COVID-19 test each week. Read about the Federal Pandemic Action Plan here:

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/covidplan/>

Please note: the Center has a combination of private, licensed event space as well as publicly accessible thoroughfares. This impacts how we implement certain health requirements in public areas of the venue.

1a. Who do the mandates and health orders apply to?

- Everyone must wear a mask at the Center, per State requirements. This is inclusive of public, Center staff, event staff, attendees, exhibitors, labor, and service partners.
- All event participants must comply with the County's health verification process by providing proof of vaccine or a negative COVID-19 test result. This includes attendees and exhibitor/booth staff during active event hours.
- Event staff, volunteers, service partners, Center staff, and similar employees are not currently required to verify health status during active event hours. This may change once the U.S. OSHA health order comes into effect.
- Children under the age of 12 are exempt from the King County vaccination/testing verification health order.

1b. Does the Center require health verification for planning meetings, site visits, etc.

Yes. The Center requires verification of health status to enter event areas for site inspections, planning meetings, and similar activities. Show management is responsible for the health verification of their meeting guests. Masks are required for all meeting participants.

1c. Can I close the entire the facility for my event?

No, the public portion of the Center is open from 6:00 am-8:00 pm daily, with exceptions for certain holidays. This includes Galleria Levels 1-4, the International Meeting Place, and certain lobbies. Events that exceed 15,000 attendees within a single event day may request an exemption from this with a minimum of 4 months' notice.

1d. My event is fewer than 500 people. Do I still need to require health verification for my guests?

Yes, under the County health order, indoor events of any size must verify vaccination or negative test result. If your event is less than 500 people and held entirely outdoors, then the health verification order may not apply.

1e. Who is responsible for informing, enforcing, and ensuring compliance with COVID-19 health orders?

We are each responsible for complying with and enforcing the required health orders to mitigate the risks of COVID-19, protecting the health of our colleagues, employees, and the public.

The Center

Our entire team is committed to a safe and healthy environment for our guests and staff. The Center is responsible for the enforcement of health verifications of our staff, service partners, and visitors to the public areas of the venue. We ensure our employees and service partners (Aramark, Edlen, Smart City, LMG, and AMR) are in full compliance with health regulations. Our executive team will provide a letter of assurance to show management about our

processes for verifying the health status of our workforce. We provide up-to-date information to all our clients on COVID-19 precautions as they evolve.

Your Event Manager (EM) will work with show management to understand the unique needs of the event and ensure your team understands any current health orders. Center Security may assist show management with the removal of non-compliant individuals from the premises. Any removals from licensed spaces must be at the direction of show management.

Show Management

In accordance with the Center's License Agreement for the use of space, each event is required to comply with all lawful ordinances, orders, rules, and laws. Further, the licensee is responsible for the activities of their guests, patrons, and contractors during their time at the Center. As such, show management has the responsibility to inform all event participants of these regulations and ensure their compliance while on premises. It is recommended that each event inform their participants and exhibitors at each step of way, from promoting the event online or in print, inviting participants, when they register or buy a ticket, and through onsite communication during the show.

Show management must submit a written statement to their EM of the process and practices for establishing health verification and mask compliance. This statement should be submitted at least 30 days in advance of the event and include, at minimum: any announcements or communication to event participants relating to the health policies; the use of any third-party applications or providers for health status verification; samples or descriptions of any credentials provided to participants (badge, sticker, wristband, ticket, etc.); the location of health checkpoints; and crowd management mitigation for any related queuing.

Individuals

Each participant, employee, exhibitor, contractor, and member of the public has an obligation to know and comply with relevant public health orders for COVID-19. Failure to remain in compliance may result in non-admission to the facility or event spaces. Further, failure to comply may result in removal from the event and/or venue.

2. MASKS

2a. Are masks required at WSCC?

Yes, masks are required in all public, private, and operational areas of the Center. This is inclusive of loading docks, garages, and all interior spaces.

2b. What types of masks are allowed?

Based on the Washington State health order, the basic requirements for masks include:

- Fit snugly against the sides of face;
- Completely cover the nose and mouth;
- Be secured with ties, ear loops, elastic bands, or other equally effective method; and
- Include at least one layer of tightly woven fabric without visible holes, although multiple layers are strongly recommended.

2c. Can masks be removed while eating?

Yes, masks may be removed while attendees or visitors are actively engaged in the act of eating or drinking. It is a recommended best practice to allocate specific areas for attendees to eat and remove their masks.

2d. Who enforces the mask requirements?

Mask enforcement is the responsibility of the show management that has contracted the space for an event. The licensee is required to inform, monitor, and enforce mask compliance of their attendees, participants, vendors, and hired contractors.

In public areas and thoroughfares of the venue, Center staff will provide verbal reminders, signage, and other reasonable measures to ensure the public understands the mask requirements. Center staff will monitor public areas for mask compliance. Center Security staff may enforce the removal of non-compliant individuals.

2e. Does the Center provide masks to its staff and service partners?

Yes, the Center provides all staff and service partners with approved masks. Employees are allowed to wear their own masks if it adheres to requirements. The Center maintains a limited inventory of masks for event clients, attendees, exhibitors, contractors, or the public who may have forgotten or whose mask is damaged.

2f. Are there any exceptions to wearing masks while at the Center?

Yes. Exceptions to wearing masks are outlined in the State health order found [here](#).

3. VACCINATION and TEST REQUIREMENTS

3a. Are event participants required to provide proof of their COVID-19 vaccination status or negative COVID test result?

Yes, as of October 25, 2021, all event participants, show staff, and exhibitors are required to provide either verification of fully COVID-19 vaccinated, or a negative COVID-19 test result.

More information is provided here: <https://kingcounty.gov/depts/health/covid-19/current-guidance/verify.aspx>.

3b. Do event participants need to show a photo ID along with their health verification?

No. The County health order does not require a photo ID from event participants. Show management may require identification as part of their overall registration and health verification process.

3c. What vaccine types are acceptable?

Fully vaccinated is defined as an individual who has received all the required doses of an FDA-authorized COVID-19 vaccine (two doses of the Moderna or Pfizer-BioNTech vaccines, or one dose of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine) or a WHO-authorized COVID-19 vaccine series, and 14 days have passed since the final dose.

3d. What forms of vaccination proof are acceptable for participants?

Based on the Public Health – Seattle & King County health order, the following documents are acceptable:

- CDC COVID-19 Vaccine Record Card, or photo of CDC Vaccine Record Card
- QR code, digital or printed certificate from [MyIRmobile.com](https://myirmobile.com) (WA Department of Health partner website, My Immunization Records)
- Vaccine administration record from a vaccine provider, including an individual's doctor, pharmacy, or other official immunization record from within or outside the U.S., including a photo or photocopy
- Specific mobile applications that verify vaccination status will be allowed once reviewed by the WA Department of Health or Public Health – Seattle & King County

3e. Does the Center recommend third-party app or service providers for proof of vaccination status verification?

No, the Center cannot recommend or endorse any third-party services or apps for health verifications. Washington State Department of Health recommends the use of MyIRmobile.com to verify vaccination status. Below are some services other recent events have used, which you may choose to research. If your event chooses to use a third-party application or service, it must be described in your statement of health verification and mask compliance.

- <https://myirmobile.com/> (approved by Washington State Department of Health)
- <https://www.clearme.com/vaccine-validation>
- <https://www.crowdpass.co/conferences>
- <https://myverify.com/#/read-more>
- <https://safeexpo.org>

3f. What types of COVID-19 tests are acceptable?

- A negative FDA-approved PCR test administered within the previous 72 hours, or
 - PCR tests may take 2-3 days for lab processing. Please plan ahead so test results are available on the first day of the event.
- A negative FDA-approved rapid test administered by a testing provider on site at the event site.
 - WSCC does not provide antigen testing onsite. Coordinate with your EM if this is a service you event will be providing.

3g. Are self-administered COVID-19 tests acceptable for access?

No. Self-administered or at-home kits are not accepted as proof of negative test result. Digital or printed proof of a negative COVID-19 test from a laboratory, health care provider, or a pharmacy must be provided.

3h. Do non-vaccinated event participants have to submit multiple negative test result(s) for multi-day events?

Perhaps. PCR testing services are readily available in the Seattle area, including a site operated by Curative located at the Center (see FAQ 3j). For events of 1-3 days, a negative PCR test result administered within the previous 72 hours must be verified on the first day of the event. Events running more than 3 days require a supplemental negative PCR test result. In this instance, it is recommended that participants be administered a PCR test on the first day of the event to allow for laboratory processing time.

Here is a 5-day event example with a PCR test:

Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1 st PCR test	2-3 day lab turnaround		Event Day 1 (valid)	Event Day 2 (valid)	Event Day 3 (valid)	Not valid	Not valid
			2 nd PCR test	2-3 day lab turnaround		Event Day 4 (valid)	Event Day 5 (valid)

3i. Can my show arrange a rapid antigen (or other) testing service for my event?

Rapid antigen daily testing may be arranged onsite with a vendor, selected by show management at the expense of the event. Rapid antigen tests are only valid for the day they are administered. In this case, event participants would need a rapid antigen each day. The testing provider,

process, hours, and location of any testing services must be detailed in your statement of health verification and mask compliance.

3j. Does the Center provide any onsite COVID-19 testing services?

Yes! The Center has partnered with Curative to provide an onsite PCR testing location intended for the use of WSCC staff, its service partners, and the Seattle hospitality community in general. This is to ensure that our workforce is compliant with any current or future health orders, and they have easy access to convenient and free COVID-19 testing services. At this time, tests are funded by an individual's insurance or through public funding sources within the CARES Act. Our onsite testing location is not intended to, or able to, provide high-volume or rapid antigen testing services for event participants, but it is available by appointment to serve the public. Testing appointments can be made at: <https://curative.com/sites/31796>.

3k. Will Center staff check vaccination cards or negative test result for event participants?

No, Center staff will not provide direct inspection of health documents. Our staff will verify a proxy credential provided by show management for access into client licensed spaces. For example, a wristband, ticket, badge, or ribbon issued once show management has verified a participant's health status. Any supplemental staffing required for health verification is at the event producer's expense and must follow established union jurisdictional rules. With certain limitations, AMR, our medical services provider, may be able to provide verification of health documents. Please review with your EM well in advance.

3l. Can the Center schedule vaccinated-only staff to service my event onsite?

Perhaps. Under specific circumstances this may be possible. Requests for vaccinated-only service staff will be considered with a minimum of 45 days' notice but may not be approved. The Center and its service partners have a high rate of vaccination, but not 100%. In order to provide adequate service levels, show management may incur the additional expense of vaccinated-only staff due to labor schedule rules. Large-scale events with extensive labor requirements may not be achievable with vaccinated-only staff.

3m. Are non-vaccinated Center staff and service partners required to have a negative COVID-19 test to work?

No, at this time Center staff and its service partners are not required to be vaccinated or provide a negative test result. All staff, whether vaccinated or not, are required to be masked while on-premises. The Center and our service partners do record the vaccination status of each of our employees. This requirement will be updated once the anticipated U.S. Department of Labor health order goes into effect, which requires testing of non-vaccinated staff for companies with more than 100 employees.

3n. Can my event request that all non-vaccinated Center staff provide a negative COVID-19 test result to work at my event?

Yes, this request can be accommodated. Advance testing of non-vaccinated staff requires detailed, advance planning of no fewer than 45 days, and must be detailed by the show manager in their statement of health verification and mask compliance. Any incurred expense for testing or staff scheduling will be the responsibility of show management.

3o. Will the Center disclose the vaccination or test status of its employees or service partners?

No. To preserve privacy, the Center and its service partners do not disclose the vaccination status or test results of individuals. Center management will issue a letter of assurance that details our process of verifying the health status of our labor force.

3p. How does contact tracing work at the Center?

If a verifiable instance of employee COVID-19 exposure occurs at the Center, every effort for contact tracing will be made. Show management will be notified of the areas in which an affected employee performed work while onsite. Washington State recommends event staff and participants use the “WA Notify” application for contact tracing, found here:

<https://www.doh.wa.gov/Emergencies/COVID19/WANotify>

4. BEST PRACTICES

This section is intended to describe some best practices you may consider while at the Center, although they are not necessary in order to be in compliance with health orders.

4a. How does the Center clean and disinfect the facility?

On March 1, 2021, the Center achieved the Global Biorisk Advisory Council® (GBAC) STAR™ accreditation on outbreak prevention, response and recovery. Recognized as the gold standard of safe venues, GBAC STAR™ provides third-party validation to ensure the implementation of rigorous protocols in response to biorisk situations. For more information on the GBAC STAR facility accreditation program, visit the Global Biorisk Advisory Council website [here](#).

4b. Do I need to schedule additional time to clean my meeting rooms?

Perhaps. The Center continues to provide complimentary, GBAC-standard cleaning of your meeting spaces at least once per day and overnight. If you prefer to have multiple room cleanings throughout your event, you may need to allow extra time in your session schedule to accommodate this. Supplemental room cleaning is at an extra expense. Please discuss room cleaning in advance with your EM.

4c. Is social distancing required in my event spaces?

No. At this time, no health orders require social distancing in event spaces, but the Center suggests providing extra space for guests to make their own choices in seating for their comfort. Examples include:

- 2 chairs per 8' table
- 4 or 5 chairs per 72" round
- Groupings of 3-5 chairs for theater seating

4d. Does my exhibit area require one-way or wider aisles?

No. One-way or wider aisles are not required by any current health orders. Show management may choose to implement these practices for the comfort of their participants. Several industry organizations suggest these measures as a best practice.

4f. Do my event participants need to register offsite, away from the Center?

No. It is not required to register your participants at an offsite location. There are logistical advantages to performing the necessary health verification process at an area separate from the general registration area. If this is not achievable or creates undue hardship, please consult your EM to identify a location at our venue that is exterior to your primary event space to conduct your health verification processes.

4g. How are set-up days handled? Do labor crews or exhibitors need to have health verifications to set up the event?

Perhaps. The County health order affects direct participants within event venues during event hours. This is inclusive of exhibitors or vendors participating during active event hours. Event staff, contractors, and labor working during set-up or installation in advance of an event are not impacted by this health order. This requirement may change once the federal health order is in effect for employers.

4h. Are receptions or banquets allowed under the health orders?

Yes, food and beverage functions are allowed. Guests are allowed to remove their masks when actively eating or drinking. We suggest allocating a space larger than typical for guests to have room for adequate spacing, if possible. For general refreshment breaks or concession outlets, we recommend a dedicated seating area for guests to consume their food, if your space allocation allows. Please discuss with your EM if lobby or adjacent meeting spaces are available to use for this purpose.

4i. Has Aramark updated their catering service practices for COVID-19 safety?

Yes, please request our Safety First Catering & Banquet Services document from your catering manager for more details on Aramark's health and safety updates.