

San Francisco Vaccine Mandate- Guidance

Effective Date: August 20, 2021

Requirement:

Restaurants must require patrons, contractors, vendors and staff that are 12 years or older to provide proof of Full Vaccination before they can enter any indoor portion of a facility. *Restaurants must cross check proof of Full Vaccination for each patron against a photo identification, unless photo identification is integrated into the digital COVID-19 vaccine record.*

All businesses must develop and implement a process for screening employees, whether vaccinated or not, for COVID-19 symptoms.

What is acceptable to show full vaccination status: (1) the CDC vaccination card showing the name of the person, type of vaccine, and date of last dose, (2) a photo of a vaccination card, (3) a photo of the vaccination card on a phone or electronic device (4) documentation of vaccination from a healthcare provider, or (5) a personal digital COVID-19 vaccine record issued by the State of California.

Exceptions: Religious beliefs, defined as sincerely held religious belief, practice, or observance. Disability or medical condition or “any applicable requirements of federal, state, or local laws requiring accommodation.”

When, Where and Under What Circumstances Do Restaurants Have to Verify Vaccination Status?:

Rest Room Usage: Restaurants may allow patrons wearing a “Well Fitting Mask” (definition below) to come indoors to use a restroom without requiring the patron to show proof that they are Fully Vaccinated.

Where Can Restaurants Verify Vaccination Status?: Restaurants may require proof of Full Vaccination to be shown at the time of the guest’s first in-person interaction with staff (e.g., at the time of ordering) rather than at the entrance of the establishment, but only if that patron wears a Well-Fitted Mask at all times after entering the indoor portion of the facility before showing proof.

What About “To Go” Orders: Restaurants may allow individuals wearing Well-Fitted Masks to enter the indoor portion of the facility to order, pick up, or pay for food or drink “to go” without showing proof of Full Verification.

Verification Before Arrival: Restaurants may obtain proof of Full Vaccination in advance of a patron’s arrival at a facility, e.g. by email or through a reservation system, but must still confirm identification at the time of entry into the facility.

Signage: Additional signage required for patrons. Same can be found at https://sf.gov/sites/default/files/2021-08/VaccinationRequired-FOH-11x17-081221_01.pdf

Penalties: Failure to comply results in fine, imprisonment or both. DPH is authorized to respond to such public nuisances by issuing Notice(s) of Violation and ordering premises vacated and closed until the owner, tenant, or manager submits a written plan to eliminate all violations and DPH finds that plan satisfactory. Such Notice(s) of Violation and orders to vacate and close may be issued based on a written report made by any City employees writing the report within the scope of their duty. DPH must give notice of such orders to vacate and close to the Chief of Police or the Chief’s designee to be executed and enforced by officers

Employees: As soon as possible, but no later than October 13, 2021, Restaurants must ensure that all staff who routinely work inside provide proof that they are Fully Vaccinated before entering or working in any indoor portion of the facility. The only exceptions are those requiring accommodation, such as for religious or medical reasons.

Masks: Everyone, including people who are Fully Vaccinated, must wear a Well-Fitted Mask in indoor public settings at all times.

A “Well-Fitted Mask” means a face covering that is well-fitted to an individual and covers the nose and mouth especially while talking, consistent with the Face Covering Requirements. DPH guidance regarding Well-Fitted Masks may be found at www.sfdcp.org/maskingupdate. A non-vented N95 mask is strongly recommended as a Well-Fitted Mask, even if not fit-tested, to provide maximum protection. A Well-Fitted Mask does not include a scarf, ski mask, balaclava, bandana, turtleneck, collar, or single layer of fabric or any mask that has an unfiltered one-way exhaust valve.

Exception to wearing a “Well Fitting Mask”: A person does not need to wear a Well-Fitted Mask when they can show: (1) a medical professional has provided a written exemption to the Face Covering Requirement, based on the person’s medical condition, other health concern, or disability; or (2) that they are hearing impaired, or communicating with a person who is hearing impaired, where the ability to see the mouth is essential for communication; (3) wearing a Well-Fitted Mask while working would create a risk to the person related to their work as determined by local, state, or federal regulators or workplace safety guidelines, or (4) children younger than two years old.

In accordance with California Department of Public Health (“CDPH”) and United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”) guidelines, if a person is exempt from wearing a Well-Fitted Mask under reasons (1) - (3), they still must wear an alternative face covering, such as a face shield with a drape on the bottom edge, unless they can show either: (1) a medical professional has provided a written exemption to this alternative face covering requirement, based on the person’s medical condition, other health concern, or disability; or (2) wearing an alternative face covering while working would create a risk to the person related to their work as determined by local, state, or federal regulators or workplace safety guidelines.