



## NEW YORK STATE COVID-19 HEALTH AND SAFETY GUIDANCE FOR LARGE-SCALE INDOOR EVENTS

As of September 16, 2021

### Guidance

New York State's COVID-19 health and safety guidance remains in effect for large-scale indoor events of 5,000 attendees and greater. Large-scale indoor events include but are not limited to sporting events, concerts, shows, live entertainment, conventions, exhibitions, and festivals. Where this State guidance may differ from local mandates or restrictions, the stricter provisions shall apply.

Pursuant to the Department of Health's (DOH) authority, the following guidelines apply for all individuals participating in, or attending, such events (e.g., patrons, public-facing employees or venue personnel, performers, athletes, as well as the respective crew and team staff with close contact to the public or performers/athletes):

- ***Vaccination or Negative Test Result Proof.*** Individuals must present proof of full vaccination status or recent negative test result prior to, or upon, admission to the large-scale indoor event. Individual self-reporting of vaccination status or test result (i.e., honor system) is insufficient verification for such events.
  - Fully vaccinated individuals may present proof of full vaccination status through paper form, digital application, or the State's Excelsior Pass. Full vaccination status is defined as having completed the COVID-19 vaccination series at least 14 days prior to the date of the event.
    - Federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved, and emergency use authorized, vaccinations are currently available for individuals aged 12 and older. In addition to FDA vaccinations, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) also considers World Health Organization (WHO) authorized vaccinations when applying public health guidelines for fully vaccinated individuals.
  - Unvaccinated or partially vaccinated individuals may present proof of recent negative diagnostic test result for COVID-19 using an FDA or DOH authorized polymerase chain reaction (PCR) or other nucleic acid amplification test (NAATs) of comparable analytical sensitivity that was performed on a specimen (e.g., swab) collected within 72 hours of the event – or – an FDA authorized antigen test performed on a specimen collected within 6 hours of the event. For such individuals, DOH requires a negative test result for individuals aged 5 and older.
  - Children under the age of 5 may accompany a parent, guardian, or other supervising adult who has provided either proof of full vaccination status or recent negative test result.
  - Venues do not need to retain any individual's proof of vaccination or recent negative test result for COVID-19.
- ***Masks.*** The CDC advise that individuals wear a mask in public indoor settings if they are within an area of substantial or high transmission, regardless of vaccination status.
  - For large-scale indoor events where proof of vaccination or recent negative test result are required, DOH further advises that, at a minimum, masks are strongly recommended for fully vaccinated individuals and mandatory for unvaccinated or partially vaccinated individuals.
  - Unvaccinated or partially vaccinated individuals may only remove their masks indoors while seated and actively eating or drinking. The mask requirement applies to individual aged 2 and older.
- ***Social Distancing and Capacity Restrictions.*** There are no current social distancing or capacity restrictions in effect for events, including large-scale indoor events.

DOH will re-evaluate this guidance on a monthly basis. At present, these guidelines are scheduled to remain in effect until further notice and, at least, October 31, 2021.