



Frequently Asked Questions Related to Chicago's Vaccine Requirement and McCormick Place

December 23, 2021

Does the vaccination executive order announced by Mayor Lightfoot apply to McCormick Place?

Yes, it applies to the spaces within McCormick Place that serve food and beverages. The policy does not include walk-up food locations, grab-and-go food stops, or any outdoor areas.

When does it take effect?

It is effective for all campus restaurants and events involving food starting on January 3.

What exactly does this policy do?

The vaccination policy requires people over the age of 5 attending any event where food and beverages are being served, and therefore masks are off, must show proof of vaccination and, if over 16, proof of identity.

How will McCormick Place enforce this?

McCormick Place will require each event to submit a food and beverage vaccination plan, similar to what is required for security. The McCormick Place team will work with the show to ensure that the plan meets the requirements of the City and also that the plan is followed during the event.

Does this apply to the people serving and preparing the food?

Yes, however, McCormick Place instituted a vaccine policy for our campus employees last fall.

Is there an option for testing instead of the vaccine?

No, there is not a testing option for attendees unless the attendee has a valid medical or religious exemption. If the attendee has a valid exemption, they can provide proof of a negative COVID test taken within 72 hours.

Does fully vaccinated require a booster shot?

Not at this time.

My event is later this summer. Does it apply to me? How long is it in effect?

At this time, we are not sure how long this will be in effect; it will be based on public health conditions.

Is there an exemption for medical or religious exemption?

Yes, the order does allow for a religious or medical exemption if there is a negative COVID test in the past 72 hours.



Does this mean my event, by default, now has a vaccine mandate?

No, it does not. It only applies to the spaces where food and beverages are being served, e.g., a cocktail event or luncheon.

My event already mandates proof of vaccination. Will we need to check before each meal?

No, you will not need to check vaccination status twice.

Can I collect proof of vaccination for attendees before they arrive at McCormick Place, or do we need to check on-site?

Proof of vaccination can be provided before the event.

Does this apply to the restaurants on campus?

Yes, it will apply to campus restaurants and spaces within the convention center that serve food.

How will this work for grab-and-go options?

If you are in a restaurant for less than 10 minutes, for example, picking up a cup of coffee, you do not need to show proof of vaccination.

Is the Wintrust Arena considered to be an entertainment venue? Is the Arie Crown Theater? Does this mean everyone needs to be vaccinated to enter?

Yes, the Wintrust Arena and Arie Crown Theater are considered to be entertainment venues, and proof of vaccination will be required.