



Guidance FAQs

Interim Guidance for Fully Vaccinated Individuals

(Updated 05-21-2021)

Below are answers to frequently asked questions (FAQs) about the Oregon Health Authority's (OHA) [Interim Guidance for Fully Vaccinated Individuals](#) (Interim Guidance). OHA provides these FAQs to help the public understand the guidance, to respond to stakeholder questions, and to clarify how the guidance may apply in specific scenarios. These FAQs may be intermittently updated. The FAQs are not intended to take the place of the guidance, but rather to interpret, supplement and provide details of the guidance.

Applicability

Q1: If I am fully vaccinated, that means that I don't ever have to wear a mask, face covering or face shield, right?

A1: No. Individuals who are fully vaccinated may still be required to wear masks, face coverings or face shields and/or follow or other guidance:

- In any setting where the owner or operator continues to apply and enforce the [Statewide Mask, Face Coverings, Face Shields Guidance](#).
- In health care settings.
- In adult jails and correctional facilities.
- In youth detention and correctional facilities.
- In shelters and transitional housing.
- In K-12 schools. (Fully vaccinated individuals must comply with [Ready School, Safe Learners \(RSSL\)](#) guidance face covering requirements).
- On planes, buses, trains, and other forms of public transportation traveling into, within, or out of the United States.
- In U.S. transportation hubs such as airports and bus stations.

Individuals should be aware that some businesses, organizations, entities, events or facilities may require more stringent mask or face covering requirements and may exclude from their business, event or facility those individuals who, regardless of their vaccination status, fail to comply with those requirements.

Q2: OHA's sector-specific says I have to comply with the [Statewide Mask, Face Covering, Face Shield Guidance](#). That seems to conflict with the [Interim Guidance](#). Can you explain?

A2: If the Interim Guidance does not require you to wear a mask in that sector, but OHA sector-specific guidance does, you can follow the [Interim Guidance](#).

Q3: Does the [Interim Guidance](#) apply to childcare, early learning or adult foster care facilities?

A3: Adult foster care facilities are considered health care settings and the [Interim Guidance](#) does not apply. Adult foster care facilities must comply with any other guidance or rules required for their facilities. Child care and early learning are subject to the Interim Guidance. Child care facilities must comply with all requirements in the [Health and Safety Guidelines for Child Care and Early Education Operating During COVID-19](#).

Q4: Are senior centers and hookah bars allowed to operate now?

A4: Yes, under the [indoor entertainment establishments guidance](#).

Q5: Does the [Interim Guidance](#) apply in local government buildings and to public meetings?

A5: Yes, as employers, local governments are subject to the [Interim Guidance for Fully Vaccinated Individuals](#). Local governments may choose to continue to adhere to the [mask, face covering and face shield guidance](#) and are not required to allow onto their premises fully vaccinated individuals without masks, face coverings or face shields and without physical distancing.

Q6: Does the [Interim Guidance](#) apply in sites where testing or vaccines are being administered?

A6: No. Locations where vaccines and testing are being administered are considered healthcare settings and must comply with [applicable guidance](#) for the setting.

Q7: How does the Interim Guidance affect OSHA's rules?

A7: OSHA's rules refer to [OHA guidance for masks, face coverings and face shields](#). Therefore, enforcement of the Oregon OSHA rules adjusts to reflect the current OHA guidance. Employers who comply with the OHA Interim Guidance for Fully Vaccinated Individuals also satisfy the Oregon OSHA rules as far as physical distancing, masks, face coverings and face shields are concerned. The other requirements of OAR 437-001-0744 must still be met. Employers also should review OSHA's [Statement Regarding Vaccination Status in Relation to Oregon's Facial Covering and Social Distancing Requirements](#).

Q8: What is a public setting? If I rent a venue for a private event, or have a business that is not open to the public, is that a public setting?

A8: Yes, a private event venue and a business not open to the public are considered a public setting and are subject to the Interim Guidance for Fully Vaccinated Individuals. Public settings are places of employment, businesses, faith institutions, and other settings subject to current state guidance regarding mask, face covering and face shield requirements and physical distancing requirements.

Q9: How does this guidance affect the [Youth Programs Guidance](#)? Do youth still have to wear face coverings when they are at a youth program?

A9: It depends. School-run, school-based or district-sponsored activities or programs and childcare programs are required to follow guidance provided by the [Oregon Department of Education](#) and the [Early Learning Division](#), respectively. Youth programs that do not fall into one of those categories must comply with the [Statewide Mask, Face Covering and Face Shield Guidance](#) and are also covered by the [Interim Guidance](#).

Q10: Does the guidance apply in courthouses?

A10: No. Individuals should check guidance from their judicial branches to understand the requirements for these entities.

Q11: If a business or employer, like a grocery or pharmacy chain, has a national policy that does not require masks or to check for proof of vaccination status if allowing unvaccinated individuals to not wear a mask, does that override Oregon's guidance?

A11: No. Businesses and employers are required to comply with Oregon guidance, laws and rules.

Q12: The [OHA Interim Guidance](#) requires individuals to wear masks on public transportation and in transportation hubs. Does that apply to transportation at camps for campers?

A12: If the transportation is for a youth program, transportation operators must comply with the transportation requirements in the [Youth Programs Guidance](#).

Q13: If my business is outdoors, like a farmers' market, can I still require people to wear masks, face coverings or face shields?

A13: Yes. Businesses, organizations, employers or other entities in control of indoor or outdoor public spaces may continue to require masks, face coverings and face shields. Individuals should be aware that some businesses, organizations, entities, events or facilities may require more stringent mask or face covering requirements and may exclude from their premises those individuals who, regardless of their vaccination status, fail to comply with those requirements.

Q14: If my business is outdoors, like a farmers' market, doesn't that mean that I am exempt from requiring masks, face coverings and face shields for anyone?

A14: OHA guidance does not require you to require masks, face coverings or face shields in outdoor areas. Any indoor spaces are subject to the [Statewide Mask, Face Covering and Face Shield Guidance](#) and the [Interim Guidance](#) and you must comply with this guidance.

Q15: When does the [Interim Guidance](#) go into effect? Can my business start allowing people who are fully vaccinated to enter without masks, face coverings or face shields, or without physical distancing right now?

A15: Yes, if your business complies with the requirements to have a policy for checking for proof of vaccination status and reviews each individual's proof of vaccination prior to entry or admission. The guidance went into effect on May 18, 2021.

Operations – Proof of Vaccination Status

Q1: How can businesses, employers and faith institutions verify that individuals are fully vaccinated?

A1: Businesses, employers and faith institutions may accept the following forms of documentation as proof of vaccination status if the individual coming onto the premises:

- Shows their vaccination card that includes their name, the date of their vaccines (or vaccine if it is a single-dose vaccine) and the location or site of the vaccine(s).
- Shows a photo of their vaccination card that includes their name, the date of their vaccines (or vaccine if it is a single-dose vaccine) and the location or site of the vaccine(s).
- Shows their vaccination card through a vaccination application on a smartphone, computer or tablet.

Q2: Are faith institutions required to ask for proof of vaccination? What if a faith institution does not want to or is unable to check for proof of vaccination?

A2: Yes, if the faith institution wants to allow individuals to enter the premises without a mask, face covering, or face shield. If a faith institution wants to allow fully vaccinated individuals into the institution without face coverings or physical distancing, the faith institution must have a policy for checking proof of vaccination status, request proof of vaccination status from each individual and review each individual's proof of vaccination. If the faith institution does not want to or is unable to check for proof of vaccination, it must continue to apply and enforce the [mask, face covering and face shield guidance](#), and physical distancing requirements in state COVID-19 guidance to all individuals. Masks, face coverings and face shields are not required for services held outdoors.

Q3: As a business owner, am I required to allow fully vaccinated individuals in my place of business without face coverings or distancing?

A3: No. Businesses may continue to adhere to the [mask, face covering and face shield guidance](#) and [OHA Sector Guidance](#) and are not required to allow fully vaccinated individuals to enter their premises without masks, face coverings or face shields or without physical distancing.

Q4: Is it sufficient to post a sign requiring those who are unvaccinated to wear a mask, face covering or face shield and physically distance and allowing those who are fully vaccinated to enter without these requirements?

A4: No, a sign is not sufficient. Prior to allowing a fully vaccinated individual onto the premises, businesses, employers and faith institutions must have a policy for checking proof of vaccination status, request proof of vaccination status from each individual and review each individual's proof of vaccination.

Businesses, employers and faith institutions may post a [sign](#) informing people that either they are required to wear a face covering in accordance with OHA [Statewide Mask, Face Covering, Face Shield Guidance](#), or that they may remove their face covering if they are fully vaccinated and provide proof of vaccination status in accordance with the [Interim Guidance](#).

Q5: If a potential customer has a medical condition that prevents them from getting a COVID-19 vaccination, can I let them into my business or organization without a face covering or physical distancing?

A5: No. If a person is not fully vaccinated, regardless of the reason, a business, employer or faith institution must require that individual to wear a mask, face covering or face shield, and physically distance in accordance with the [Statewide Mask, Face Covering, Face Shield Guidance](#) and all physical distancing requirements in [OHA Sector Guidance](#).

Q6: What if a person who has not provided proof that they are fully vaccinated refuses to wear a mask, face covering or face shield or physically distance? What can I do?

A6: If the person has a disability and cannot wear a mask, face covering or face shield, a place of public accommodation (such as a business or space open to the public) will need to work with that person to provide a reasonable modification. Some common reasonable modifications are: free curbside pick-up, free delivery or an appointment by phone or video. A reasonable modification does not include allowing a customer inside without a mask, face covering or face shield. If the person does not have a disability, the business, employer or faith institution should refuse service.

Q6: If businesses, employers and faith institutions want to allow fully vaccinated individuals on the premises without masking or distancing, they have to have a policy for checking vaccination status of individuals. Does this policy need to be written or submitted to anyone?

A6: Businesses, employers and faith institutions are not required to have a written policy. However, businesses, employers and faith institutions must ensure that all employees, staff, volunteers or other individuals responsible for reviewing and confirming proof of vaccination status are familiar with and able to describe and implement the policy.

Q7: Can employers allow fully vaccinated employees to remove masks, but require masks for customers, regardless of vaccination status?

A7: Yes. Businesses, employers and faith institutions may allow fully vaccinated employees to go without face coverings and distancing, while still requiring face coverings and distancing for customers and visitors regardless of their vaccination status. Conversely, businesses, employers and faith institutions may require all employees to wear face coverings and distance regardless of vaccination status while allowing fully vaccinated customers and visitors to remove masks and not distance.

Q8: Isn't it a violation of my medical privacy for someone to require me to provide proof of vaccination?

A8: The [Interim Guidance](#) does not require you to provide proof of vaccination. You may instead choose to wear a mask, face covering, or face shield, rather than provide proof of vaccination.

Q9: If I had COVID-19 already, isn't that the same thing as being fully vaccinated?

A9: No. Experts do not yet know how long people are protected from getting sick again after recovering from COVID-19. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control recommends that individuals should be vaccinated regardless of whether they have already had COVID-19.

Q10: What happens if I am fully vaccinated but forget to take my vaccination card with me?

A10: If you are not able to provide proof of your vaccination status, you are not eligible under the [Interim Guidance](#) and must wear a mask, face shield, or face covering in accordance with the [Statewide Mask, Face Covering, Face Shield Guidance](#). Businesses, employers and faith institutions must require you to wear a mask, face covering or face shield and physically distance, in accordance with [OHA guidance](#) while you are on the premises.

Q11: What happens if I lose my vaccination card? How can I get a new one?

A11: You can request your personal Oregon vaccination record from your health care provider, or you can request the information from OHA. Because of the current volume of immunization data requests, it may be some time before you get a reply.

You can request your record from OHA here:

<https://www.oregon.gov/oha/PH/PREVENTIONWELLNESS/VACCINESIMMUNIZATION/GETTINGIMMUNIZED/Pages/ImmRecords.aspx>

Q12: What are some concerns people might have when providing proof of vaccination status?

A12: People may have concerns about sharing personal information such as date of birth and full name that is included in proof of COVID vaccination.

When providing proof of vaccination status, people may be concerned with:

- Ensuring their vaccination cards are returned to them if they provide the card to a business, employer or faith institution
- A business, employer or faith institution not trusting their proof of vaccination and requiring additional information.
- For people who speak or read a language other than English, there may be uncertainty about what is being asked of them and what they should do. It is important for businesses, employers and faith institutions to post information in languages other than English so as many people as possible understand the process.

Q13: Does the government issue any documents to people with disabilities that state the person does not have to wear a mask, face covering or face shield?

A13: No, the government does not provide documents that exempt a person from a mask, face covering or face shield requirement based on disability.

Operations – General

Q1: What are some ways I can ensure that people who are not fully vaccinated don't remove their face coverings once they are inside my business?

A1: If businesses, employers and faith institutions choose to allow fully vaccinated individuals on their premises without masks, face coverings or face shields and physical distancing, tools such as wristbands, stamps or other cues may help staff members ensure individuals who are required to wear masks comply with that requirement.

Q2: Can businesses and employers require people to get vaccinated?

A2: For workers' rights and employers' rights on vaccinations, refer to Oregon Bureau of Labor and Industry's (BOLI) [Frequently Asked Questions](#) on COVID-19 vaccinations in the workplace.

Q3: How can I protect my unvaccinated workers if fully vaccinated workers and staff don't have to wear face coverings or distancing?

A3: Employers are not required to allow fully vaccinated staff or customers to be on the premises without face coverings or physical distancing. Employers may continue to require fully vaccinated staff to wear a mask, face covering or face shield and physically distance while on the premises, in accordance with [OHA Guidance](#).

Q4: If I know that only fully vaccinated individuals have been on the premises of my business or organization, do I still have to collect the required contact tracing information for those individuals?

A4: Yes.

Q5: Since many kids are not eligible for vaccinations, are they still required to wear face coverings when playing sports?

A5: Individuals playing and practicing sports **outdoors** are not required to wear a mask, face covering or face shield, regardless of vaccination status.

Individuals who are fully vaccinated may play or practice sports **indoors** without a mask, face covering or face shield as long as the indoor sports operators reviews the vaccination status in accordance with the [Interim Guidance](#). OHA recommends that all children ages 12 and over get vaccinated with vaccinations approved for their age.

Q6: Do fully vaccinated individuals count toward the maximum capacity limits in the sector risk level guidance chart?

A6: Yes.

Q7: Since individuals don't have to wear masks, face coverings or face shields anymore outdoors, doesn't that mean that risk levels don't apply outdoors anymore either?

A7: No. Risk level capacity limits still apply outdoors.

Q8: Are people allowed to sing without their masks or face coverings in a faith institution if they are fully vaccinated?

A8: Yes, however, before allowing the singer to remove their mask, face covering or face shield, the faith institution must confirm that the singer is fully vaccinated by requesting and reviewing their proof of vaccination status.

Q9: Can my business allow fully vaccinated individuals from different parties to sit fewer than six (6) feet apart at the bar?

A9: Yes, as long as the business or employer has confirmed that those who are sitting at the bar are fully vaccinated.

Q10: If all people in a party are fully vaccinated, can my business seat a party larger than the maximum party size limit for the county risk level?

A10: No.

Q11: If I operate a hotel, am I allowed to check a guest's vaccination status just once when they check in or do I have to check each time the guest uses a different hotel facility?

A11: Hotel operators that check the vaccination status of guests upon check-in are not required to check the guest's vaccination status again. However, hotel operators must ensure that guests who have not shown proof of vaccination follow masking and distancing requirements in [OHA guidance](#).

Q12: Will I have to wear a mask, face covering or face shield when accessing state services or entering state buildings?

A12: Yes. The State will not be checking vaccination status at this time, and so State employees and visitors to state agency office spaces must comply with the Oregon Health Authority's [mask and face covering guidance](#). Call or visit the website of the state agency before going to the location to determine whether it is open to the public.

Q13: Where can I get more information about the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) and providing accommodations for persons with disabilities?

A13: There are some great resources out there and here are links to a few of them:

- [Disability Issues Brief, The ADA and Face Mask Policies](#)
- [Oregon OSHA Advisory Memo](#)
- The Bureau of Labor and Industries [Technical Assistance for Employers](#) program can provide guidance on the reasonable accommodation process at 971-673-0824 or bolita@boli.state.or.us.

Those who experience disability discrimination, including denial of service without a reasonable modification should contact the Bureau of Labor and Industries [Civil Rights Division](#) at 971-673-0764 or email crdemail@boli.state.or.us.

Enforcement

Q1: How will the [Interim Guidance](#) be enforced?

A1: The state will first seek to work with businesses, employers, and faith institutions public to educate them about the requirements prior to taking any enforcement action.

Businesses, employers, and faith institutions public are expected to ensure that their employees, contractors, volunteers, customers and visitors comply with the [Interim Guidance](#) and the [Statewide Mask, Face Covering, Face Shield Guidance](#). If a business, employer, or faith institution is making every effort to comply, that will be

taken into consideration in any potential enforcement action. Any enforcement activity will focus on systemic issues, not isolated problems.

Any complaints or inquiries about workplace requirements can be directed to [Oregon Occupational Safety and Health Administration \(OR-OSHA\)](#).

Q2: What are the penalties for businesses, employers or faith institutions who do not comply with the guidance?

A2: It is a Class C misdemeanor to violate the mask, face covering, face shield requirement. The Oregon Health Authority and Local Public Health Authorities can issue civil penalties and take other enforcement actions for violations of the mask, face covering, face shield requirement. An individual or business that has a state issued license, may be subject to a licensing action for violating the [Interim Guidance](#) or the [Statewide Mask, Face Covering, Face Shield Guidance](#). All complaints can be directed to Oregon Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OR-OSHA).

Q3: What are the penalties for individuals who lie about being vaccinated or who provide false documentation?

A3: This would be a violation of the [Statewide Mask, Face Covering, Face Shield Guidance](#). It is a Class C misdemeanor to violate the mask, face covering, face shield requirement. The Oregon Health Authority and Local Public Health Authorities can issue civil penalties and take other enforcement actions for violations. An individual who has a state issued license, may be subject to a licensing action for violating the [Interim Guidance](#) or the [Statewide Mask, Face Covering, Face Shield Guidance](#). All complaints can be directed to Oregon Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OR-OSHA).

Document accessibility: For individuals with disabilities or individuals who speak a language other than English, OHA can provide information in alternate formats such as translations, large print, or braille. Contact the Health Information Center at 1-971-673-2411, 711 TTY or COVID19.LanguageAccess@dhsosha.state.or.us.