



Doncaster
Council

LICENSED PREMISES BULLETIN # 8

DECEMBER 2021

Entry to Venues and Events Requirements - Implications for Licensed Premises

As always, we all hope that this bulletin finds you all well. This bulletin is a precis of the latest requirements under “Plan B for England”. This is part of the COVID-19 Response: Autumn and Winter Plan 2021 (published on 14/10/21). The document sets out a summary of the latest requirements to prevent Omicron rates placing unsustainable pressures on the National Health Service (NHS), during this festive period and into the New Year.

The government’s Plan B prioritises measures which can help control transmission of the virus while seeking to minimise economic and social impacts. This includes:

- Communicating clearly and urgently to the public of the need to behave more cautiously.
- Introducing mandatory vaccine-only COVID-status and negative test certification in certain settings.
- Legally mandating face coverings in certain settings.
- Asking people once again to work from home (if they can), for a limited period.

The Entry to Venues and Events Regulations require that the person responsible for a relevant venue or event must take reasonable measures to ensure that visitors aged 18 or over provide evidence that they have:

- completed a full course of an approved COVID-19 vaccination, (this does not include requirement for booster vaccination or
- taken a test provided by NHS Test and Trace test in the 48 hours prior to visiting a venue and received a negative result or
- A small number of exemptions for medical reasons (**whose exemption has been clinically reviewed**) and for those on clinical trials.

Proof of Covid Status

Covid Status can be demonstrated through digital and non-digital COVID Pass based on coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccination details, test results, medical exemption or clinical trial participation. **Customers should not bring lateral flow devices to prove status.**

Settings where certification applies

Mandatory vaccine-only certification would be introduced in the following settings, venues and events:

- **All nightclubs and other venues open after 1am with alcohol music and dancing.**
- **Indoor events with 500 or more attendees:** events at indoor settings with 500 or more attendees where attendees are likely to stand or move around or have no allocated seating.

- **Outdoor events with 4,000 or more attendees:** events at outdoor settings with 4,000 or more attendees where attendees are likely to stand or move around and have no allocated seating.
- **Very large events with 10,000 or more attendees:** events at settings with 10,000 or more attendees, irrespective of how many attendees are seated

Nightclubs, dance halls and discotheques

Nightclubs, dance halls and discotheques would be required to implement certification when hosting indoor events, irrespective of the number of attendees. In addition, any other setting that shares specified characteristics with these venues. This would be determined by a setting meeting **all** of the following criteria:

1. Is open between 1am and 5am
2. Serves alcohol during this period
3. Has a dance floor or space for dancing to be used by members of the public
4. Provides music for that dancing

There are some settings that would be exempt from requirements to use certification, including:

- Communal worship, wedding ceremonies, funerals and other commemorative events.
- Free, un-ticketed outdoor events in public spaces, including street parties, protests and mass participation sporting events would also be exempt.

At present, the NHS COVID Pass displays an individual's COVID status on the basis of vaccine, test or natural immunity status. If mandatory certification were introduced, the NHS COVID Pass would switch so that it certified individuals based on vaccine status only.

Indoor events with 500 or more attendees

Events at indoor settings with 500 or more attendees where those attending the event are likely to stand or move around during all or part of the event. This would not include where someone only leaves their seat to go to the bathroom, obtain food or drink, or leave the event.

**Settings would be regarded as 'indoor' based on the definition provided by existing Smoke-free (Premises and Enforcement) Regulations 2006.*

Outdoor events with 4,000 or more attendees

Events at outdoor settings with 4,000 or more attendees where those attending the event are likely to stand or move around during all or part of the event. As per indoor events with 500 or more attendees, this also would not include events at outdoor settings where someone only leaves their seat to go to the bathroom, obtain food or drink, or leave the event.

Very large events with over 10,000 or more attendees

Events at settings with 10,000 or more attendees irrespective of how many of these attendees were standing.

Exempt events

If introduced, a number of events would be exempt from mandatory certification requirements. These would be:

- communal worship, wedding and civil partnership ceremonies and equivalents (including alternative wedding ceremonies), funerals, and commemorative events
- wedding receptions and other significant life-cycle events (such as a bar and bat mitzvah, mehndi ceremony or christening)
- outdoor events in public spaces where these are un-ticketed and not charged for (such as street parties, protests, carnivals and marathons)
- events in private dwellings (and private gardens) where these are free and un-ticketed
- dance or exercise classes, ballroom dancing, amateur or professional dance performances, or any other exempt event.

Workforce requirements

It is strongly recommended that every person aged 18 or over providing services in person in venues where certification applies would be expected to either be:

- fully vaccinated
- exempt (for medical reasons, or as a result of clinical trial participation in a COVID-19 vaccine trial)
- undertaking regular, supervised testing.

Who will be required to show the NHS COVID Pass

- All visitors aged 18 and over to places where certification was required, would have to demonstrate their vaccination status. They would have to be fully vaccinated or exempt.
- Individuals are fully vaccinated **after a period of 14 days** has passed since the final dose.
- Booster jabs would not be required in order to be considered fully vaccinated.
- Anyone under 18 years of age would not be required to demonstrate their vaccination status (under 18's may not commonly have ID and therefore would not need to show proof of age).

There are a small number of other individuals that would not have to demonstrate vaccine status to enter places where certification is in use should the policy come into force, although they may be asked for proof of identification. These would include:

- **Police officers** acting in their official capacity
- **Local authority officers and emergency services responders** attending in their official duties
- **Diplomats** or someone working for an international organisation.

The following groups of individuals are exempt from vaccination:

- UK COVID-19 vaccine clinical trial participants and vaccine clinical trial participants who have taken part in a clinical trial in another country whose proof of participation is recognised for UK border purposes
- the small proportion of people who should not be vaccinated for medical reasons, **whose exemption has been clinically reviewed**
- Individuals should only apply for a medical exemption if they have **a genuine medical reason** (not just because they are averse to getting vaccinated).

Check and alternative arrangements

Event and venues that are subject to the regulations **must conduct checks on all attendees, unless alternative arrangements are approved by a Doncaster Council**. An alternative can be considered in the following circumstances:

- it is a **venue other than** a nightclub, dance hall, discotheque or other late night venue open after 1am with alcohol, music and dancing and
- the **majority of attendees are expected to arrive for a fixed start time** and
- it is **not possible to set up checkpoints away from the entry point** and carry out a check on every person would lead to a crowd gathering outside the venue or event and
- that crowd would **either present a risk to the safety of the persons in the crowd** or to any other person or providing a **potential target for terrorist action**.

Proof of certification

The NHS COVID Pass can be checked visually or scanned using the NHS COVID Pass Verifier app. The verifier app enables venues to validate a customer's COVID-19 status by scanning the 2D barcode presented on the NHS App, on a pass that has been downloaded to a smartphone wallet or the PDF download.

Where mandatory certification applies, local authorities have powers to issue Coronavirus Improvement Notices, Restriction Notices and Immediate Restriction Notices.

As part of the multi-agency activity, officers from the Licensing Team and colleagues from South Yorkshire Police will be out-and-about during this period and actively monitoring any issues that arise.

This bulletin is a condensed version of the requirements. The links below are to the GOV.UK web pages for further advice and guidance on complying with the new rules.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/working-safely-during-covid-19/restaurants-pubs-bars-nightclubs-and-takeaway-services>

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/carrying-out-mandatory-covid-19-status-checks-at-your-venue-or-event>

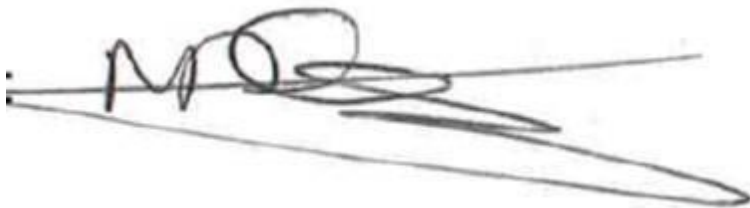
Licensing Objectives

As always, please remember the four key Licensing Objectives of The Licensing Act 2003:

- PREVENT CRIME & DISORDER
- PUBLIC SAFETY
- PREVENTION OF PUBLIC NUISANCE
- PROTECTION OF CHILDREN FROM HARM

We look forward to working with you.

Best Regards



Nasir Dad

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