



GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO
PUERTO RICO TOURISM COMPANY

July 6, 2021

To all Tourism Stakeholders

Carlos Mercado
Executive Director

Re: Updated guidance for tourism businesses and travelers for the implementation of [Executive Order 2021-054](#) and [Department of Health Administrative Order 2021-508](#), and the release of the new Puerto Rico Tourism Company [Health and Safety Program](#).

Dear Tourism Industry Stakeholders,

Puerto Rico recently reached another positive milestone with vaccination distribution and trending declines of confirmed COVID-19 cases and fatalities. With the great progress achieved and track record with the health crisis mitigation, the travel and tourism industry is now ready to phase out from the health crisis mitigation and move toward a new phase that is closer to our pre-pandemic normalcy.

With the great progress showcased, Last July 1st, Governor Pedro Pierluisi announced [Executive Order 2021-054](#). On this Executive Order, the Governor delegated to the Secretary of the Department of Health the power to establish the instructions, guidelines, protocols, and recommendations for each business activity as necessary in accordance with the risk of contagion- to manage the emergency of COVID19.

With the new responsibility in scope and starting July 5, 2021, the Secretary of Health published [Administrative Order 2021-508](#) that dictates the health and safety measures that are currently applicable to the population in general, and to the employers and entities of the public and private sector.

What follows is a guide on the applicability of the Executive Order and the recent Administrative Order 2021-058 for all tourism operations for the period beginning July 5th.

Destination-Wide Health & Safety Program: The mandatory [Health and Safety Program](#) for all tourism businesses was revised and readily available [HERE](#).

All travel and tourism businesses must [acknowledge](#) the receipt and attest that they have read the updated guidelines and have applied the measures successfully in their businesses.

Regardless of having completed the previous acknowledgement form or having received the Health and Safety Certification, this updated acknowledgement form must be filled by all businesses before July 31, 2021.



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The applicable businesses required to follow through the implementation of the [Health and Safety Program](#) are:

Bed and Breakfasts (B&B)	Alternative Lodgings	Short-Term Rentals	Hostels
Glamping Facilities	Guest Houses	Tourism Villas	Condo-Hotels
Hotels	Paradores and Posadas de Puerto Rico		Casinos
Tour Operators	Certified Tour Guides	Travel Agencies	
Excursions Wholesalers	Restaurants, bars, and nightclubs within lodging properties		
Cultural Attractions			

Required Acknowledgment Form: owners, general managers, directors of operations or the assigned Health and Safety Officer must sign the electronic acknowledgement form [HERE](#). Any business that does not comply with this requirement may be subject to penalties and sanctions imposed by the Health Departments.

Businesses who have received the Health and Safety Certification from the Puerto Rico Tourism Company, and do not complete the updated acknowledgement form, will be at risk of losing the certification.

Some high-level updates instilled with the new [Health and Safety Protocol](#) are:

- The wellness check point is no longer required.
- The completion of the Travel Declaration Form at the hotel or short-term rentals are no longer required.
- Buffet style serving is permitted once again, as long as there is a hand sanitizing station in the serving area.
- Daily housekeeping and turndown service can resume.

Passenger Arrival Requirements. The point of entry requirements and protocol did not changed with the recent Executive Order or Administrative Order. The protocol in place continues to be the one implemented on May 25th via [Executive Order 2021-037](#).

In summary:

The completion of the [Travel Declaration Form](#) continues to be mandatory for all arriving passengers. The following are the entry requirements for the following three scenarios:

- Fully vaccinated travelers** flying in from any US domestic destination are no longer required a negative PCR molecular test result within 72 hours of arrival, as long as they can prove vaccination administration. Vaccinated passengers will have the opportunity to upload their official Vaccination Card through the Travel Declaration Form portal; or
- Non-vaccinated travelers** arriving from a US Domestic destination are still required to provide evidence of a pre-departure COVID-19 test taken within 72 hours of arrival. The negative result



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must be from a qualified SARS-CoV2 viral test; either a nucleic acid amplification test ("NAAT") or an antigen test; or

- C. **International arriving passengers**, regardless of vaccination status, are required to provide evidence of a pre-departure negative COVID-19 test taken within 72 hours of arrival as required by the CDC. The negative result must be from a qualified SARS-CoV2 viral test; either a nucleic acid amplification test ("NAAT") or an antigen test taken at an authorized center.

One person is considered fully vaccinated two (2) weeks after the second dose was administered for the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines, or two (2) weeks after receiving the only dose of the Johnson & Johnson's Janssen vaccine.

Use of Face Coverings for Patrons and Employees: all non-vaccinated patrons and staff members must wear a face covering or mask at all times. This mandate is applicable to all of non-vaccinated persons in indoor, outdoor, back office or behind the scenes and business venues.

Only vaccinated patrons and staff members are exempt from the mask wearing requirement.

Per the established protocol of the updated [Health and Safety Program](#), hotel guests checking in to the property must be advised of the local mandate placed in effect at the time of check in.

Capacity Limitations: Current Administrative Order does not impose capacity limitations.

Operations schedule limitations: Current Administrative Order does not impose hour of operations constraints.

Short-term rentals: Legally and properly registered properties are the only properties authorized to operate.

- Short-term rental properties, duly registered and identified by their Innkeepers at the PRTC, as per Act 272-2003, are authorized to operate. For information on registration and identification visit [HERE](#). If a listing is not duly registered, it's illegally operating and is subject to fines and penalties as outlined under Act 272-2003 and Executive Order 2020- 044.
- Strict compliance of the terms established in the updated [Health and Safety Program](#) are required of all short-term rental properties.

Events and Social Activities: Events with an expected participation of 500 persons or more, must follow the established protocol of requiring evidence of one of the following:

- A. Vaccination proof of any of the three (3) FDA approved vaccines
or



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- B. Have a negative result of COVID-19 from a qualified SARSCoV2 viral Antigen Test performed within twenty-four hours prior to the event.

The attendance number considers the total number of persons participating in the event including patrons or attendees, employees, entertainers, and exhibitors.

The event organizer and the business owner or Health and Safety Officer are accountable to establish a check system to secure the compliance of the vaccination or negative antigen test requirement for those events above 500 participants.

Reporting of Suspicious or Confirmed Cases: Each employer, including owners of businesses, must immediately report suspicious and confirmed COVID-19 cases among its workforce or patrons. The business must reach out to the Department of Health via the following email address: covidpatronos@salud.pr.gov.

Upcoming Updates: Business owners, hoteliers, property manager and the Health & Safety Officers are responsible for monitoring the upcoming updates from the Department of Health and the compliance of future Administrative Orders.

All Administrative Orders from the Department of Health are available and will be published [HERE](#).

Applicability Term: Note that the measures established by the recent Executive Order 2021-058 begins July 5, 2021 and does not have an end term in sight. Changes to the existing measures will be conducted with upcoming Administrative Orders from the Department of Health that will be found [HERE](#).

Questions or Additional Support: If you need support with the clarification of the Executive Orders or Administrative Orders, or with any matter regarding the [Updated Health and Safety Program](#) for all tourism businesses, please feel free to reach out to Ana Leticia Velez via: Ana.Velez@tourism.pr.gov.