



GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO
PUERTO RICO TOURISM COMPANY

December 22, 2021

To: All Tourism Stakeholders

From: Carlos Mercado, Executive Director

Re: Updated health and safety measures for events management dictated by recent [Executive Order 2021-080](#)

Dear Tourism Industry Stakeholders,

Given the imminent threat that the recent Omicron variant represents, in addition to the already precarious risk from the Delta variant, the Governor, Hon. Pedro Pierluisi, adjusted the existing health and safety measures. Based on scientific data and following both local and global trends on the COVID-19 advancement, the mitigation plan was updated to safeguard the wellbeing of our residents and visitors alike.

The recent uptick in confirmed COVID-19 cases in the Island and at a US National level, in addition to the information released by the public health and medical professionals, are confirming that we need to keep our guard up just a little longer. It is for this reason that our Health and Safety Program must continue to be in place until we win the battle against coronavirus.

After 20 months in, we have learned an important lesson: vaccines work, but they alone won't stop the COVID-19 spread. We all need to do our part to mitigate and contain the virus in our establishments.

We have come along way, and we have been breaking records in arrivals, occupancy and revenue numbers because of our commitment to sustain the highest health and safety standards. We were able to build a competitive advantage versus other destinations through the consistent implementation of our protocols. We cannot afford to lose this advantage.

What follows are the guidelines on the applicability of the recent [Executive Order 2021-080](#) to all tourism operations. Note that these measures do not have a clear end term in sight. Changes to the existing measures will be conducted with upcoming [Executive Orders](#) and/or Administrative Orders from the Department of Health.



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Updates from Executive Order 2021-80 with new measures for events

Starting December 22nd, 2021, all organizers, administrators, owners, or anyone organizing an event with an expected attendance below 500 persons are responsible to comply with the following new restrictions:

- A. **Vaccination Requirement:** All attendees are required to present proof of complete vaccination with and FDA or WHO approved vaccine. Those who cannot present valid proof of vaccination, must present a Negative COVID-19 test taken within the 48 hours prior to the starting time of the event.
- B. **Masks Requirement:** All attendees and employees must wear a mask or face covering at all times except while eating or drinking.

To effectively mitigate the spread of COVID-19 during events and activities, it is recommended for venues to ask all attendees to present a Negative COVID-19 test taken within 48 hours of the start of the event. Although it is not a requirement, is highly recommended for the owner, administrator or manager of the event to instill this policy in addition to the vaccination requirement.

This requirement is applicable for any type of venue whether indoor or outdoor, including ballrooms, meeting rooms, theaters, amphitheaters, coliseums, stadiums, and convention centers.

Acceptable proof of complete vaccination can be an image of the COVID-19 Vaccination Card or government issued electronic certifications such as the "Vacu ID."

For those who fail to present proof of vaccination, the negative result must be from a qualified SARS-CoV2 viral test; either a nucleic acid amplification test ("NAAT") or an antigen test, or a certified COVID-19 at-home test.

The mandate stated above is applicable for all events with less than 500 attendees and for outdoors events. It's not necessary to coordinate with the Department of Health to establish the protocol to be followed, but the use of a mask or face covering is required at all times.

In the case of events with 500 or more attendees:

Starting December 22nd, 2021, all organizers, administrators, owners, or anyone organizing an event with an expected attendance of 500 persons or more must:

- A. Coordinate with the Department of Health to establish the protocol to be followed to ensure that the activity is safe for the health of all those present.
- B. In the evaluation process, the Department of Health must determine if the presence of children under five years of age is appropriate.

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 Vélez via: Ana.Velez@tourism.pr.gov.