

What you need to know about the vaccination card requirement for events

Through Decree 1408 of November 3, 2021, the National Government issued instructions on the presentation of the vaccination certificate as a requirement for on-site activities and events. This regulation becomes effective this Tuesday, November 16.

A. What is the requirement regarding the presentation of the vaccination card?

The new regulation indicates that territorial entities must add to the biosecurity protocols in force, the mandatory presentation of the covid-19 vaccination card or digital vaccination certificate showing, at least, the beginning of the vaccination schedule.

B. Where is this new measure valid?

It must be requested as a requirement for admission to: public or private in-person events involving mass attendance. In addition, to bars, gastrobars, cinemas, discotheques, dance halls, concerts, casinos, bingos and leisure activities, as well as sports venues, amusement and theme parks, museums and fairs.

C. Is the measure expected to be extended to other sectors?

The Ministry of Health and Social Protection, in coordination with the Ministry of the Interior, may extend this measure to other activities or sectors, according to the evolution of the pandemic against covid-19 and the progress of the National Vaccination Plan.

D. Who will be responsible for requesting the card or certificate?

It will be in charge of the owners, administrators or organizers of public or private face-to-face events involving massive attendance and in those places indicated above.

E. From when will it be requested?

This measure will be effective as of November 16, 2021 for people over 18 years of age and as of November 30, 2021 for people over 12 years of age; the population between 0 and 12 years of age is exempted from this measure.

F. Do I have to have a complete immunization schedule?

Initially no. You will be required to have at least one dose of the scheme. However, the Ministry of Health and Social Protection together with the Ministry of the Interior are empowered to determine the date from which the requirement of a full vaccination schedule card will be made.

G. Is it possible to use both physical and digital cards?

It can be presented in any of the two presentations, both physical and digital. The purpose is to validate that the person has already started or completed his/her vaccination schedule.

H. Will it be optional for certain businesses?

It will only be required for places of leisure, recreation, where the risks due to the conditions are higher and where the largest group of unvaccinated people are today, becoming focal points of collective and individual risk.

I. What happens if I was vaccinated abroad or I am a foreigner?

You can present the document that proves your vaccination in the place where you received it. The purpose of this requirement is to validate that the person has already started or completed his/her vaccination schedule, in order to reduce and mitigate the risks of contagion.

J. Do these measures complement the application of the cycles established in Resolutions 777 and 1687 of 2021?

Yes, the application of these measures are complementary and contribute to the management of the volumes established in Resolutions 777 and 1687 of 2021.

K. Are churches required to request the vaccination card when holding ceremonies or regular worship services?

No, it will only be required in those cases in which massive events different from usual ceremonies or services are held.

L. In what situations should hotels and places of lodging request the vaccination card?

It must be requested for private events, receptions or similar. It is not required for lodging services.

M. Do shopping malls have to request a vaccination card?

No. Shopping malls should not request the vaccination card for the entrance to the mall, it will only be requested in spaces where public or private events are held, in the cinema area, or theme parks.

N. Should biosecurity measures continue?

Yes, regardless of whether the vaccination card is required at the entrance of events, biosecurity measures must continue to be implemented (hand hygiene, use of masks and ventilation management).

O. In a residential complex I am not asked for a card to enter, but if I go to a party or meeting in the community hall, should I be asked for it?

In the meetings held in the social or community halls of the residential complexes, the vaccination card or digital certificate must be requested. The same applies to any event held in the common areas such as social gatherings or novenas.