



GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO
PUERTO RICO TOURISM COMPANY

August 6, 2021

To: All Tourism Stakeholders

From: Carlos Mercado
Executive Director

Re: Updated guidance for tourism businesses for the implementation of the [Executive Order 2021-062](#) with measures applicable effective August 16, 2021 and the measures currently in place regarding the use of face coverings, point of entry requirements and capacity limitations.

Dear Tourism Industry Stakeholders,

The Governor, Hon. Pedro Pierluisi, signed and published [Executive Order 2021-062](#) that dictates the updated health and safety measures that are applicable to our sector beginning next Monday, August 16, 2021.

Given the recent increase in the rate of positivity, in infections and in hospitalizations in Puerto Rico in the United States, the Executive emoted a series of safety measures directed to mitigate the community transmission of the COVID-19 and its variants.

What follows are the guidelines on the applicability of this recent [Executive Order](#) for all tourism operations for the period beginning August 16, 2021. Note that these measures do not have an 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 that can be found [HERE](#).

Vaccination requirement for tourism businesses:

Guests: It is a national mandate that all guests must be properly inoculated with any of the three vaccines authorized by the FDA (Janssen (J&J), Moderna or Pfizer) in order to be allowed in the facilities.

The vaccination requirement is applicable to any person staying 1 night or more at any hotel, bed and breakfast (B&B), short-term rental, hostel, glamping facility, guest houses, tourism villas, condo-hotels and Paradores and Posadas de Puerto Rico.

If by any reason the guest can not provide the vaccination card or proper proof of vaccination, the guest is required to provide evidence of a COVID-19 test taken within 72 hours of checking in. The negative result must be from a qualified SARS-CoV2 viral test; either a nucleic acid amplification test ("NAAT") or an antigen test.



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Guests that fail to present either the proper vaccination proof or the negative COVID-19 test within 72 hours of check in, cannot be permitted to remain in the facilities.

Per the requirement established in the [Health and Safety program](#) of the Puerto Rico Tourism, the assigned Health and Safety Officer, manager or owner of the lodging establishment are responsible to implement a screening process to secure the implementation of the mandate described above.

Employees and Staff Members: As a national mandate, all employees or contracted staff working in lodging businesses must be duly inoculated with any of the three vaccines authorized by the FDA (Janssen (J&J), Moderna or Pfizer) in order to be physically allowed to work at the establishment. This is applicable to staff members working in the property including casinos, gym, spa, pool, beach, golf courses, experience providers and concessionaries.

The vaccination requirement is applicable to any employee in hotels, bed and breakfasts (B&B), short-term rentals, hostels, glamping facilities, guest houses, tourism villas, condo-hotels and Paradores and Posadas de Puerto Rico.

If by any reason the employee cannot provide the vaccination card or proper proof of vaccination, the employee must present weekly evidence of a COVID-19 test taken within 72 hours of the weekly check point.

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

This weekly check point to the unvaccinated employees must take place every 7 calendar days until the employee presents proof of vaccination.

Employees that fail to present either the proper vaccination proof or the negative COVID-19 test within 72 hours of check in, cannot be permitted to work physically in the facilities.

Note that if a non-inoculated employee begins the vaccination cycle prior to the effective date of August 16, 2021, he or she can present evidence of the first dose inoculation to be allowed to work physically at the establishment. However, that employees must subsequently comply with the complete the inoculation cycle by September 30, 2021.

Per the requirement established in the [Health and Safety program](#) of the Puerto Rico Tourism, the assigned Health and Safety Officer, manager, owner and human resources official of the establishment are responsible to implement a screening process to secure the implementation of the mandate described above.



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Non-lodging services: The Puerto Rico Tourism Company strongly recommends that all non-lodging tourism services adapt the vaccination or negative test requirement stated in the Executive Order. This vital recommendation is for areas including casinos, gyms, spa, pool and beach facilities, restaurants and bars within lodging properties, tour operations and guides, tourist transportation businesses, attractions, entertainment facilities, museums, and experiences providers among others.

Specifically:

- Patrons attending any event hosted at any lodging property are strongly recommended to present evidence of vaccination or proof of negative test 72 hours prior to the event.
- Patrons visiting or consuming any service at any lodging property including restaurants, bars, nightclubs, gyms, and spa are strongly recommended to present evidence of vaccination or proof of negative test 72 hours prior to entering the facilities.
- Casino patrons are strongly recommended to present evidence of vaccination or proof of negative test 72 hours prior to accessing the casino area.
- Day passes holders at lodging properties are strongly recommended to present evidence of vaccination or proof of negative test 72 hours prior to accessing the facilities.
- Patrons visiting museums, attractions or consuming any tour or experiences are strongly recommended to present evidence of vaccination or proof of negative test 72 hours prior to accessing the facilities.

Non-Compliance of the newly executed measures: A guest and business not complying with the established measures are subject to a sentence of imprisonment that will not exceed six (6) months or a fine of no more than five thousand dollars (\$ 5,000) or both penalties at the discretion of the court.

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.

Vaccination requirement: It is a national mandate that all guests staying at a short-term rental must be properly inoculated with any of the three vaccines authorized by the FDA (Janssen (J&J), Moderna or Pfizer) in order to be allowed in the property.

The vaccination requirement is applicable to any person staying 1 night or more at short-term rental in Puerto Rico.



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If by any reason the guest cannot provide the vaccination card or proper proof of vaccination, the guest is required to provide evidence of a COVID-19 test taken within 72 hours of checking in. The negative result must be from a qualified SARS-CoV2 viral test; either a nucleic acid amplification test ("NAAT") or an antigen test.

Guests that fail to present either the proper vaccination proof or the negative COVID-19 test within 72 hours of check in, cannot be permitted to stay in the property.

Per the requirement established in the [Health and Safety program](#) of the Puerto Rico Tourism, the property manager is responsible to implement a screening process to secure the implementation of the mandate described above.

Non-Compliance of the newly executed measures: A guest and property manager not complying with the established measures are subject to a sentence of imprisonment that will not exceed six (6) months or a fine of no more than five thousand dollars (\$ 5,000) or both penalties at the discretion of the court.

Use of Face Coverings or Masks for Patrons and Employees: As updated with the most recent [Administrative Order 512](#) of the Department of Health, the existing local mandate regarding the use of mask is as follows:

Patrons in Indoor Spaces: Regardless of vaccination status, all customers are required to wear a mask or face covering indoors.

Patrons in Outdoor Areas: Regardless of vaccination status, all patrons are required to wear a mask in outdoor areas where the safe distancing minimum of 6ft between customers can not be observed.

Employees: All staff members must wear a mask or face covering at all times while on duty. This mandate is applicable to all work force, regardless of the vaccination status. Masks must be worn by staff members in all business settings including indoor and outdoor spaces, back office or behind the scenes.

Destination-Wide Health & Safety Program: As a reminder, the mandatory [Health and Safety Program](#) for all tourism businesses released last July 7, 2021 is available [HERE](#).

This the deadline to have completed [the acknowledgement form](#) was last July 31, 2021. All travel and tourism businesses must have [completed the online form](#) 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 should have been filled by all businesses.



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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			

Passenger Arrival Requirements. The point of entry requirements and protocol have not changed with the recent 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:

- A. **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
- B. **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 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.

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

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



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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.

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.