



Applicable as of 17<sup>th</sup> January 2022

# COVID-19 - Standards for organised events taking place in an enclosed area requiring proof of vaccination for entry

## Applicability

The following standards are issued under the Public Health Act Chapter 465 of the Laws of Malta and require strict adherence. Failure to adhere to these standards will result in enforcement procedures, as provided by the Act and the subsidiary legislation.

The applicable legislation is L.N. 8 of 2022 Valid Certificate of Recognised Vaccination against COVID-19 Requirement Regulations, 2022

## Introduction

The COVID-19 pandemic has been leaving a mark on the world, with a great toll on health, economies and society in general. Consistent use of a variety of public health measures have helped to control the pandemic. With the fast spread of the Omicron variant, which is currently responsible for the majority of cases, the drive for vaccination with booster along with the non-pharmaceutical measures in place, are crucial to control and retain a stable situation and prevent acute hospitalisations, ITU admissions and COVID-related deaths.

## Organised events for vaccinated persons

These standards are applicable for organised events, namely:

1. Events including cultural, artistic, dance, theatre, music performances, etc.
2. Corporate events - conferences, awards nights, AGMs etc
3. Fairs, markets, and exhibitions
4. Weddings and other celebrations
5. Spectators at sport events

**No standing events will be allowed**

## Valid vaccination certificate

Only vaccine certificates which can be verified through digital means (QR Code) are acceptable. A vaccine certificate is considered valid if it is one of the recognised vaccine certificate formats published in the Government Gazette and listed for ease of reference at <https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/health-promotion/covid-19/Pages/travel.aspx>. A valid certificate documents vaccination with an EMA-approved vaccine/s (with batches that



are authorized by the national regulatory authority of the administering country) and is issued at least 14 days after the last dose. Recognised vaccine certificates which include primary full schedule with a WHO-approved vaccine, are also recognised provided that a booster dose with an EMA-approved vaccine has been given. The list of WHO-approved vaccines can be found here: <https://covid19.trackvaccines.org/agency/who/>.

Validity requirements of locally issued certificates<sup>1</sup> are as per schedule below:

- Adults aged 18 years and over:
  - primary schedule<sup>2</sup> with the last dose administered not more than 3 months previously

OR

  - primary schedule and booster with last dose of booster administered not more than 9 months previously
- Under 18 years – primary schedule

Validity requirements for foreign vaccine certificates are as per the requirements of the country issuing the certificate, provided that the last dose was administered at least 14 days prior.

## Verification of vaccine certificates

Event organisers are responsible for the verification of the Digital Vaccination Certificates and the identity confirmation of the persons attending the event against an ID card or passport on admission. Event organisers will be required to have the **CovPass – Malta** App and QR code readers installed on their devices that can read the digital certificates in order to be able to verify the authenticity of COVID vaccine certificates. Since the CovPass - Malta App can be used to verify other forms of EU Digital Covid Certificates (such as test certificates), staff should initially confirm that the document presented is a vaccination certificate before proceeding to scan it. Only a vaccination certificate is acceptable for attending the event.

CovPass - Malta App is presently only available on Android devices and can be downloaded from: <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=mt.gov.CovPassMalta&hl=en&gl=US>.

Once installed the CovPass - Malta App only has one (1) function, that is to scan EU DCC certificates and to display if the scanned certificate is valid or not. The app does not store any certificates on the device.

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<sup>1</sup> [https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/health-promotion/covid-19/Documents/Vaccines/Standards-for-vaccine-certificate-validity\\_13Jan22.pdf](https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/health-promotion/covid-19/Documents/Vaccines/Standards-for-vaccine-certificate-validity_13Jan22.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> Primary schedule refers to the initial course of vaccination as recommended by the manufacturer e.g., two doses of Spikevax (Moderna), Comirnaty (Pfizer) or Vaxzevria (Astrazeneca) or one dose of the Janssen (Johnson & Johnson) vaccine



Guidance on verifying EUDCCs and other vaccine certificate formats can be found at:  
[https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/environmental/Documents/covid-19/Covid19\\_Vaccine\\_Certificate\\_Scanning\\_Manual.pdf](https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/environmental/Documents/covid-19/Covid19_Vaccine_Certificate_Scanning_Manual.pdf)

Event organisers can be guided on the authentication process by sending a request to [iccertifikavaccin@gov.mt](mailto:iccertifikavaccin@gov.mt).

## Employees of event organisers

Staff working in direct contact with patrons also need to be vaccinated in line with these standards. However, they have an exemption period up to 1st February 2022 to come in line with these requirements, after which they need to be in possession of a valid vaccination certificate as outlined above.

Staff not in direct contact with patrons are exempted from providing a vaccination certificate at the workplace.

## Exemption of persons and/or categories of persons

### Children under the age of 12 years

Children under 12 years of age are not required to present a vaccination certificate

### Pregnancy

While COVID-19 vaccines, including boosters, can be given at any time in pregnancy, in low-risk situations some women may choose to delay vaccination until 12 weeks of gestation, though they should aim for vaccination as soon as possible thereafter. In view of this, pregnant women **up to 16 weeks gestation** who have delayed receiving their booster due to early pregnancy will be allowed entry to the organised events if they present a recognised vaccine certificate documenting that they have received the primary schedule of COVID vaccination (even if the last dose of primary vaccination has been administered more than 3 months previously) together with an antenatal card/ doctor's certificate confirming the dates of their pregnancy.

### Persons testing positive

In the case of persons unable to take their booster because they tested positive for COVID-19 in the recent past, such persons will be allowed entry to organised events if they present a recognised vaccine certificate documenting that they have received the primary schedule of COVID vaccination (even if the last dose has been administered more than 3 months previously) together with their positive COVID-19 test result from a licenced laboratory or registered swabbing centre dated **no more than 6 weeks prior**.

### Medical conditions

The only instance in which a request for consideration for exemption from vaccination certificate requirement for entry to organised events on medical grounds is justified is where the first dose of vaccine caused immediate severe anaphylaxis requiring medical treatment. In all other medical conditions and situations, at least one of the authorised vaccines may be administered safely.



In the above exceptional circumstance only, persons would need to apply for an exemption by sending an email with all relevant documentation to covid19.health@gov.mt Subject title of email should read as follows “EXEMPTION REQUEST: Name of person for whom the application is being requested.”. This email must be accompanied by a valid, verifiable medical certificate which includes clear contact details of one’s medical specialist . A copy of the exemption letter from the Superintendent of Public Health must be presented at the entrance to the event (the initial letter from the individual’s family doctor/specialist cannot be used to gain entrance). A template exemption letter can be found in the Annex 1 of these standards.

### Employees of event organisers

Staff not in direct contact with patrons can be exempted from providing a vaccination certificate at their workplace.

### Penalty

Any person who manages any organises any activity and who gives access to any person not being in possession of a valid certificate of a recognised vaccination in accordance with the applicable criteria as defined in these standards, shall on conviction, be liable to the payment of a penalty of five hundred euro (€500) for each and every instance in which these regulations are breached.

## COVID-19 mitigation measures required at organised events:

The following standards are applicable for all events organised under this standard:

- Organised events shall have an identified named organiser who shall be responsible for the event.
- Organiser is to apply for approval to organise an event with Malta Tourism Authority and submit risk assessment found at [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfs6pxdyjCA\\_zTY-P1MhVg9DBmXE7TnSRnVhkgDwggK62bK0w/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfs6pxdyjCA_zTY-P1MhVg9DBmXE7TnSRnVhkgDwggK62bK0w/viewform) and the filled in assessment form sent on [riskdepository@visitmalta.com](mailto:riskdepository@visitmalta.com) at least 10 days prior to the event.
- All events are subject to inspection by authorised officers.
- Events shall strictly be with prior booking/reservation/tickets/registration. Any invitation should request confirmation of attendance prior to event. No sale of tickets is allowed at the door.
- Organisers shall exercise the right of refusal of entry onto the premises of patrons if they are visibly unwell or have respiratory symptoms.
- Staff and attendees shall be subject to temperature checks at entrance for the presence of fever and those with a temperature of 37.2 ° C or higher shall be denied entrance.
- An appropriate 70% alcohol hand-rub is to be provided at each entrance and ensure that all persons sanitise their hands prior to entrance.
- The number of attendees shall be capped not to exceed the number of persons stipulated in Table 1.



- Organiser shall ensure that at the event venue there are no onlooking spectator areas where people can gather. Outdoor events shall take place in strictly fully controlled areas that are open spaces which are effectively enclosed/hoarded and that cannot otherwise be overlooked / looked into. Any outside event done with hoarding shall need to have 5-10 metres secure perimeter area outside hoarding to avoid gatherings.
- Events cannot be organised in residential property including leased residential property.
- Entrance into and exit from the premises shall be regulated with staggered entry and exit times, adopting appropriate crowd management techniques as necessary, to ensure minimum gatherings of people outside the enclosed venue. Numerous controlled entry/exit points required to prevent queues (where applicable). Adequate number of staff to be available for this purpose.
- Masks to be worn at all times and can only be removed when eating or drinking.
- No smoking allowed in the event area.
- A minimum two (2) metre distance shall be kept between performers and patrons
- Any food or drink service or outlets on the premises shall adhere to all Standards issued by the Public Health Authorities and relevant legislation. Such service shall be provided directly to patrons. Crowd control measures within the venue shall still be required and mechanisms to facilitate equal distribution of patrons.
- Staff and patrons are to wear masks and/or visors at all times while on the premises.
- All performers and crew utilising theatre facilities are required to follow the obligations detailed even if they are not employed by the theatre operator.
- Ongoing cleaning and disinfection operations of all the common areas inside the premises shall be carried out, paying particular attention to commonly touched surfaces.
- Records of the contact information (name, surname, ID card/ passport number and contact phone number) of at least one person per party, as well as details of seating arrangements need to be kept for up to 28 days after the event and be made available to the Public Health Authorities if requested.
- Audiences in events shall be seated in such a way that each seated person maintains social distancing of at least 1.5 metres from another seated person. In the case of persons from the same household, they shall be allowed to sit together in a group, and in such case no more than 6 persons shall be allowed to sit together. For persons not from the same household, up to 4 persons can opt to be seated together.
- Seated events with a capping of 300 persons can opt to adopt pre-COVID distances and no limit to number of persons on tables.
- In events where the number of persons attending exceeds a total of 300 persons with seating around a table, no more than 8 persons can be seated except for groups of persons from the same household. Tables to be arranged so that the distance from one table to another table is not less than 1.5m in all directions in an indoor enclosed area and not less than 1 m in all directions on the outside area of venue.
- All standing up shall be prohibited except upon entering and exiting the venue and in order to go to restrooms.



- Seated events shall not have any breaks or intermission, and no dancing or mingling of patrons shall be allowed.
- Seated lunch allowed for conferences.
- Organisers must have security personnel to ensure that attendees remain seated and to manage any problems that may arise.

### Sections for events

If the venue is equipped to have **physically separate sections**, i.e., each section is physically separated, has a separate entrance and exit, separate facilities, including staff, the event can accommodate up to a maximum of the capping in Table 1 for people per separate section. Each section needs to have physical separation with no possibility of crossing over. Staff and spectators from separate sections are not to have any contact with each other.

Sections cannot be applied to weddings.

Professionals on stage who for a reason do not have a vaccination certificate may be allowed to work at the event provided they submit a negative PCR within 72 hours from start of event and that no contact at all is made with any members of the audience or other staff at any point in time in the event. Other staff in contact with this person will need to be informed.

### Timeline

The easing of measures has followed the approach of gradual easing, with restrictions as required, which is very dependent on the local epidemiological situation and will continue to be determined by the evolving epidemiological situation in Malta. Such transition is bi-directional with the re-introduction of measures depending on the epidemiological situation. The following table shows the timeline and applicable maximum number of attendees that will be allowed to attend events organised according to the above-mentioned standards:

**Table 1. Seated events**

	5 <sup>th</sup> July 2021	19 <sup>th</sup> July 2021	2 <sup>nd</sup> August 2021	16 <sup>th</sup> August 2021	30 <sup>th</sup> August 2021	13 <sup>th</sup> September 2021	13 <sup>th</sup> September 2021
Event capping	100	150	200	300	500	500	For 100 participants capping
Physical distancing	2 metres	2 metres	2 metres	2 metres	2 metres	2 metres	1 metre



	18 <sup>th</sup> October 2021	18 <sup>th</sup> October 2021	18 <sup>th</sup> October 2021	1 <sup>st</sup> November 2021	
Event capping	For 300 participants capping	500	500	For 300 capping	
Physical distancing	1 metre	1.5 metre for enclosed indoor area	1 metre for enclosed outdoor area	Pre- COVID distances	

## Risk assessment

The risk assessment tool found at

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfs6pxdyjCA\\_zTY-P1MhVg9DBmXE7TnSRnVhkgDwggK62bK0w/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfs6pxdyjCA_zTY-P1MhVg9DBmXE7TnSRnVhkgDwggK62bK0w/viewform)

is required for all events. Organiser is to submit the filled in risk assessment tool on [riskdepository@visitmalta.com](mailto:riskdepository@visitmalta.com) at least 10 days prior to the event.

This tool must be completed in this Excel spreadsheet. If any of the basic requirements are not ticked, then the event cannot be held.

**An approval of an event and these standards do not exonerate the organiser from abiding by other applicable regulations, health and safety regulations, legislation, and applicable permits.**