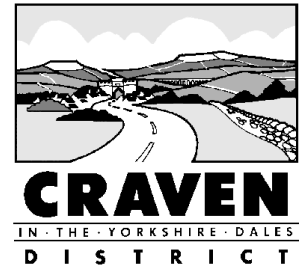


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Dear Sir/Madam

The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (Entry to Venues and Events) (England) Regulations 2021

From 15 December, some venues and events will be required by law to check that all visitors aged 18 years or above are fully vaccinated or have proof of a negative test in the last 48 hours, or that they are exempt. This means that those aged 18 years or above must show their NHS COVID PASS, or other accepted proof, to gain entry. The NHS COVID Pass is a tool that can help limit transmission of COVID in places where it's used. The venues/events subject to these new requirements are as follows:

Venues:

- Nightclubs, dancehalls, and discotheques.
- Also, any other late night dance venue which:
 - Is open between 1am and 5am.
 - Serves alcohol during this time.
 - Has a dancefloor (or space for dancing).
 - Provides music, whether live or recorded, for dancing.

NB: Nightclubs, dancehalls, and discotheques will be required to check the COVID status of visitors at all times. Other late-night venues are only required to check the COVID status of visitors after 1am. However, if visitors who arrived before 1am remain on the premises after this time their COVID status must be checked at that time.

Events:

- Indoor events with 500 or more attendees, where those attendees are likely to stand or move around for all or part of the event, such as music venues with standing audiences or large receptions.

Paul Shevlin, Chief Executive
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- Outdoor events with 4,000 or more attendees, where those attendees are likely to stand or move around for all or part of the event, such as outdoor festivals.
- Events with 10,000 or more attendees, whether indoor or outdoor, such as large sports and music events.

The person responsible for the above venues/events must, by law, produce and keep up to date a statement setting out the following:

- The measures they intend to undertake to satisfy their obligations;
- How the measures are to be implemented; and
- How those measures are to be drawn to the attention of every person attending the venue or event.

The person responsible for the above venues/events must, by law, keep a daily record of how many visitors attend their venue/event for each day they operate. They must ensure that these records are kept in such a way that it is not possible to determine the identity of any person from them.

Frequently Asked Questions

How do I check the COVID-19 status of visitors and what evidence is acceptable?

You are expected to take reasonable measures to ensure that all attendees aged 18 or above have the NHS COVID Pass (or approved international equivalent) or have valid proof that they have completed a negative PCR test or negative rapid lateral flow test within the past 48 hours. Staff are not required to prove their COVID-19 status, but Government recommends that you do so.

You should check for proof of COVID-19 status through use of the free NHS COVID Pass Verifier App to ensure passes are valid and have not expired and reduce the possibility of fraud. Text or email proofs of a recent test should be visually checked. More details about the NHS COVID Pass Verifier App are available here: <https://www.nhs.uk/covid-19-response/using-the-nhs-covid-pass/>.

What should I do if someone refuses or cannot demonstrate their COVID-19 status?

If any of your adult attendees fail to produce adequate proof of their COVID-19 status you must not allow them to enter your event or venue. If anyone tries to breach entry to your venue/event, without having proof of COVID-19 status, you should take the appropriate action to ensure the safety and security of all at the event.

Are there any circumstances where I do not have to check the COVID-19 status of all visitors?

All events and venues that are subject to the regulations must conduct checks on all attendees unless alternative arrangements have been agreed with their local authority. There are limited circumstances where checking all attendees may cause unsafe situations, but these must be pre-approved by the local authority.

You may allow people to enter to avoid injury or escape a risk of harm (for example, to address a medical emergency) without checking their COVID-19 status. This applies to all venues and events of all sizes.

What are the consequences of failing to carry out my legal obligations?

If you do not comply with your legal obligations in relation to carrying out mandatory COVID-19 status checks at your venue or event, local authorities can take enforcement action, including prosecution or issue of a fixed penalty notice (FPN) of up to £10,000.

Full government guidance can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/carrying-out-mandatory-covid-19-status-checks-at-your-venue-or-event> If you have any questions or require clarification on any particular point please do not hesitate to contact us on 01756 700600, or email environmentalhealth@cravendc.gov.uk

Yours faithfully

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