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**Do you run a hospitality business? Are you required to check the COVID status**

 **of customers? What do you need to do?**

From 6am on Wednesday 15 December, certain venues and events will be required by law to check the COVID status of customers using the NHS COVID Pass or other accepted proof to gain entry into these settings.

Checking the COVID status of attendees is mandatory in certain places, in order to allow them to stay open more safely, and to prevent unsustainable pressure on the NHS.

#### Carrying out COVID-19 status checks on a voluntary basis

Venues and events that are not required to use the NHS COVID Pass can still opt to use it voluntarily as a condition of entry to reduce the risk of transmission at venues or events.

You should consider using the NHS COVID Pass if you operate a venue or event where individuals are likely to stand or move around, or where individuals are in close contact, even if you are not legally obliged to.

**Venues and events that must carry out COVID-19 status checks**

The use of the NHS COVID Pass is required as a condition of entry into the following places:

* nightclubs, dancehalls and discotheques
* other late night dance venues, where all of the following apply:
	+ the venue is open between 1am and 5am
	+ it serves alcohol during this time
	+ it has a dancefloor (or space for dancing)
	+ it provides music, whether live or recorded, for dancing
* 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
* 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

**Nightclubs, dancehalls and discotheques will be required to check the COVID status of visitors at all times.**

There are exemptions, including weddings and civil partnership ceremonies, funerals, events in private houses where people do not have to pay or hold a ticket to enter, and receptions celebrating a wedding or other significant life event.

The responsible person – the organiser or manager of the premises – of a relevant venue or event is required to take reasonable measures to check attendees’ Covid-19 status, and is legally required to deny entry if a customer does not meet the entry requirements.

The responsible person must produce, and keep up to date, a statement setting out the measures they will introduce to ensure that they are meeting the requirements of carrying out mandatory COVID-19 status checks, and that they are making the public aware of these measures. This should explain, where applicable, a spot check approach, if you have prior agreement from the local authority.

The responsible person must also retain records containing the following information on implementing the requirements of carrying out mandatory COVID-19 status checks:

* the date of the event, or the date the records refer to for a venue
* the number of people that attended the venue or event
* where you have departed from your general policy statement of measures to meet certification requirements:
* the reasons for adopting different measures
* what measures were adopted
* how an individual’s eligibility to enter the venue was checked
* the number of occasions on which the reasonable measures you were taking to check COVID-19 status of attendees were varied from 100% checks by agreement with the local authority, and the number of people who were admitted on each such occasion
* the number of occasions on which people were admitted to avoid injury or harm

Information from within the NHS COVID Pass, such as an individual’s name or COVID-19 status must not be kept.

**NHS COVID Pass Verifier App**

It is recommended that you use the NHS COVID Pass Verifier App to scan an attendee’s NHS COVID pass. More information on the App can be found here [www.nhsx.nhs.uk/covid-19-response/nhs-covid-pass-verifier-app/domestic-covid-pass-verifier-app-user-guide/](http://www.nhsx.nhs.uk/covid-19-response/nhs-covid-pass-verifier-app/domestic-covid-pass-verifier-app-user-guide/)

**Further Guidance and Queries**

Further guidance can be found at the following webpages

[www.gov.uk/guidance/carrying-out-mandatory-covid-19-status-checks-at-your-venue-or-event#what-records-you-must-keep](http://www.gov.uk/guidance/carrying-out-mandatory-covid-19-status-checks-at-your-venue-or-event#what-records-you-must-keep)

[Restaurants, pubs, bars, nightclubs and takeaway services - Working safely during coronavirus (COVID-19) - Guidance - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/working-safely-during-covid-19/restaurants-pubs-bars-nightclubs-and-takeaway-services)

Please contact us at licensing@carlisle.gov.uk or call 01228 817272 if you have any questions.