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ACBA vaccination policy now in effect *Proof of vaccination or negative test required at in-person events*

By ACBA Staff

As previously reported in the *Lawyers Journal*, the Allegheny County Bar Association Board of Governors on Oct. 19 voted to implement a COVID vaccination (or negative COVID test) requirement for all in-person ACBA CLEs and other events.

The policy went into effect on Dec. 1, and details on how the implementation of the policy will work moving forward are now available. Policy details and FAQs are available at [ACBA.org/covid](https://www.acba.org/covid), but the highlights are as follows.

All attendees – including presenters, sponsors and other guests – at in-person ACBA CLEs and events (such as happy hours, holiday parties, networking events, lunch-and-learns, etc.) must provide proof of vaccination or show evidence of a negative COVID test taken within 72 hours of the event they are attending.

The ACBA is using VaccineCheck – an online vaccine verification platform – to provide members with a convenient way to upload their vaccination documentation. When attempting to register for any in-person CLE or event at [ACBA.org](https://www.acba.org), users will be prompted, via a pop-up box, to click on a link where they can access VaccineCheck. From there, members can upload an image of their vaccination card. Members can also access VaccineCheck directly from [ACBA.org/covid](https://www.acba.org/covid).

Those using VaccineCheck should upload their information at least one week prior to the event they wish to attend. Once your vaccination information has been uploaded and approved, you will not need to complete this step again to register for other events.

Alternatively, rather than using VaccineCheck, you can bring your vaccination card (or a photo of it), or documentation showing your negative test result, and present it at the door when coming to a CLE or event. When using this approach, however, members will have to show this documentation each time they attend such an event, which is why the ACBA is strongly encouraging members to use the VaccineCheck approach.

“We looked into several methods regarding exactly how to implement the new policy, and we decided on VaccineCheck because it is intuitive and extremely easy to use,” said Christina Daub, the ACBA’s Director of Membership and CLE. “While we welcome members bringing their documentation to the door, the VaccineCheck method is a far more efficient approach because once you upload your information, you never have to do it again. When you go to register for a subsequent event, you can bypass that step because you’ve already been ‘cleared,’ so to speak.”

Regular in-person committee, division and section meetings differ from ACBA CLEs and events because these meetings don’t require registering in advance, many are being held exclusively via Zoom and those that are being held in-person also have a virtual option for attendees.

For these reasons, those attending these meetings in-person must present a vaccination card at the door. There is no VaccineCheck or negative test option for these meetings. Those unable to provide proof of vaccination to attend a meeting should attend virtually.

At all in-person ACBA gatherings, attendance will be taken to facilitate contact tracing in the event that a positive test is reported.

Additionally, as has been the case for several months, all attendees at any ACBA in-person gathering must wear masks when not eating or drinking, and that aspect of the policy remains in place. The current ACBA COVID safety policy is in effect until June 30, 2022.

“We recognize that some members may have medical, religious or other reasons for not being able to get vaccinated, which is why we were sure to include the negative test option for CLEs, events and virtual attendance options for meetings,” said ACBA Executive Director David Blaner. “This new Board of Governors policy is designed to keep everyone safe while attending ACBA functions. We are hopeful members can attend ACBA events with the peace of mind knowing that we’re doing everything possible to make these gatherings safe.” ■