



Metro Public Health Dept

Nashville / Davidson County

Protecting, Improving, and Sustaining Health

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March 10, 2021

Dear Valued Hospitality Industry Partner,

I want to provide you with an update on our reopening plans and guidance for the second half of 2021. As an industry leader, you have prioritized public health at your venue and your efforts have not gone unnoticed. We at the Metro Public Health Department are grateful for all you have done, and for your feedback and partnership throughout this past difficult year.

The rollout of COVID-19 vaccinations continues to progress, and any encouragement of vaccination you can offer is appreciated. As of this writing more than 15 percent of Davidson County's population has received at least one dose of the vaccine. As vaccination coverage increases, we are planning to incrementally increase capacity at event venues and other establishments. We anticipate reaching the 20 percent vaccination threshold in March and the 30 percent level in April or early May. In the first seven days of March we reported 18,057 first doses administered, which represents more than 2.5 percent of Davidson County's population. Based on this trend, we can forecast with reasonable confidence that we will reach 40 percent vaccination by July 1. If we see continued strong demand for the vaccine and a steady or increased supply from the federal government, we could reach that mark sooner.

Increasing vaccination coverage will allow for larger events as outlined below, in an example of our expectation when coverage reaches about 40 percent. There will be assessments at other levels of vaccine coverage and there may be changes at different points along the way.

Note these vaccination coverage numbers are triggers for evaluation of the medical situation as it exists in Davidson County at the time they are reached. These are not automatic thresholds for increases in capacities and attendance, but guideposts for medical and epidemiological assessment of the situation on the ground.

For example: **Gathering restrictions at 40% vaccination (estimated by July 1)**

- Very Low Risk – Cap of 5,000 attendees
- Low Risk – Cap of 1,250 attendees
- High Risk – Cap of 750 attendees
- Very High Risk – Cap of 300 attendees

For further explanation of the risk categories, please reach out to Tom Sharp, our policy director, at Tom.Sharp@nashville.gov or 615-340-5622. Generally speaking, a seated and masked business meeting qualifies as "very low risk" while more celebratory functions such as wedding receptions, for example, would fall into the "very high risk" category.

At higher vaccination levels, and with a continued diminution of the virus in our community, these attendance numbers will grow further. As noted, there may be interim step increases at levels other than 40 percent of vaccination coverage, and the increases will apply broadly.

This letter is designed to help your business plan events months from now by providing assurance that capacity restrictions will fade as increased vaccinations protect us from the virus. If conditions worsen as a result of a new variant, vaccination percentages may not necessarily correspond to loosening restrictions.

Thank you for your continued emphasis on keeping your clients safe.

Respectfully,

Gill C. Wright, III, MD, FAAFP, MMM
Chief Interim Medical Director of Health