

Communication from Public

Name: David Juarez
Date Submitted: 03/04/2022 11:17 AM
Council File No: 21-0878
Comments for Public Posting: Please see attachment.



March 4, 2022

Los Angeles City Council
Los Angeles City Hall
200 N Spring St,
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: File: 21-0878 – Vaccine Mandate to Enter Indoor Spaces

Dear Los Angeles City Councilmembers,

On behalf of the California Restaurant Association (CRA), and the thousands of restaurants in the City of Los Angeles, I am writing to ask you to revisit and invalidate Council File: 21-0878 which requires individuals to show proof of the COVID-19 vaccination in order to enter indoor public spaces such as restaurants.

We commend the City Council for addressing COVID-19 with the level of seriousness and determination it deserves, however, as we continue to make progress in our fight against the virus, the sharp decrease in cases and test positivity rates and hospitalizations must be acknowledged. The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health has already done so by removing guidelines that are no longer necessary in our battle against COVID-19. DPH has aligned with the State of California in removing mask requirements for indoor public spaces, such as restaurants. They have also announced the removal of bars, lounges, nightclubs, cardrooms and other establishments from the requirement to verify proof of vaccination or a negative COVID-19 test before entering indoor spaces.

We share your concern to keep Angelenos safe. We fought vigorously to keep our team-members towards the front of the line for vaccine eligibility- and have worked since to maximize the number of vaccines distributed within the restaurant workforce. However, the City's ongoing requirements to have restaurants and other businesses verify proof of a COVID-19 vaccination or a negative COVID-19 test in order to gain entry into our facilities are no longer necessary. These restrictions do act as another form of capacity limitation, and we believe it is now appropriate to remove such restrictions.

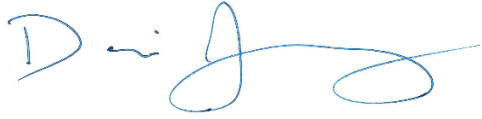
As COVID-19 cases continue to decline, our members continue to face challenges when conducting vaccine checks of our guests. This massive shift of public health responsibilities from local health departments onto the restaurant community has been extremely difficult for restaurant staff, and often has led to unnecessary conflict between employees and patrons.

Continuing to demand restaurant team-members verify proof of vaccination of guests when dining indoors will extend the emotional toll that our team-members have dealt with for months and will further upset our guests as neighboring jurisdictions have already lifted similar mandates.

We respectfully request that the proof of vaccination mandate to dine inside restaurants be lifted in order to continue making progress in safely getting back to normal. We appreciate you taking the time to consider the issues raised in this letter and looking forward to continuing to work with you to better serve our restaurant community.

California Restaurant Association
P.O. Box 32482, Los Angeles, CA 90032

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'David Juarez', with a stylized, flowing script.

David Juarez
Director of Local Government Affairs
California Restaurant Association