

Dependency Court Policy Regarding COVID-19 Vaccination Status and Court Attendance

Introduction: The Court is obligated to take reasonable measures to safeguard the health and safety of our employees, judicial officers, and the parties, witnesses, attorneys and other community members with whom Court employees interact. We acknowledge that different participants in Dependency Court have different rights and obligations regarding presence in the courtroom, and as such, the requirements regarding vaccination status and the proof thereof differ depending on the category of the attendee.

Participant	Requirement	Proof
Courtroom staff	The court requires that all staff be fully vaccinated or provide negative PCR test weekly.	The court's HR department will monitor compliance.
Attorneys & attorney staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must be fully vaccinated; or • Show negative PCR test taken within seven calendar days of court appearance. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vaccination card need not be produced. • However, unvaccinated attorney/staff must provide the negative PCR test result.
Social workers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must be fully vaccinated; or • Show negative PCR test taken within seven calendar days of court appearance. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • County Counsel shall monitor the compliance of their clients and attest as such to the court.
Parents, children, CASAs and other parties who are <i>entitled to attend hearings</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vaccinations are encouraged. • To sit at counsel table, party must be fully vaccinated. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vaccination cards must be shown to the party's attorney, and attorney shall attest to the court that they have seen the vaccination card. • For CASAs, vaccination cards must be shown to CASA supervisor who will inform the court of same.
Non-party witnesses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vaccinations are encouraged. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only fully vaccinated non-party witnesses may remain in courtroom after their testimony, subject to approval by the judge.
Support people: relatives, service providers and others who are <i>not entitled to attend hearings</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must be fully vaccinated. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vaccination cards must be shown to the attorney who represents the party the attendee is in court to support, and attorney shall attest to the court that they have seen the vaccination card.

Other provisions:

- Any person entering the Family Justice Center Courthouse must be properly masked at all times everywhere in the courthouse.
- **Only vaccinated individuals (including attorneys and parties) will be allowed to sit at counsel table.** Unvaccinated individuals will sit in designated seating in the back of the courtroom.
- "Fully vaccinated" means it has been at least two weeks since a person has completed the entire recommended series of a COVID-19 vaccine.
- Due to the difficulty of witnessing verifiable proof of vaccination status or test results for in-custody parties, all in-custody parties will be seated near the holding cell door, a safe distance from other attendees.