

Washington, DC Reopening Status – as of May 10, 2021

Destination DC, the official destination marketing organization for Washington, DC, is working in coordination with local officials and industry partners including the government of the District of Columbia, the U.S. Travel Association, Events DC, the Hotel Association of Washington, DC and Restaurant Association Metropolitan Washington, in line with guidance from the CDC to communicate current information and best practices.

Washington, DC's Reopening Plan

- On [Friday, May 21](#), restrictions on public and commercial activity, including capacity limits and types of activities **will be lifted for most activities**, including at meetings and seated conventions, weddings and special events, museums, restaurants and retail.
- Starting June 11, capacity restrictions will be lifted at bars, nightclubs, and large sports and entertainment venues.
- From May 21-June 11, bars and nightclubs may operate at 50% capacity, and waivers are necessary at large sports and entertainment venues.
- Residents and visitors are required to follow the CDC's mask guidance. DC's guidance for **fully vaccinated people** is [here](#).
- From May 10-20, DC is in Phase 2 of reopening, with guidance detailed below.

DC's Phase Two Status from May 10-May 20:

- Phase 2 guidance is online at coronavirus.dc.gov/phasetwo. The [public health emergency](#) is in effect through May 20, 2021.
- [Mask Guidance](#) (May 1): Masks are required on public transportation. Unvaccinated people are required to wear a mask when leaving their residence and likely to come within 6 feet of others.
- Regional **business meetings and conventions** may take place indoors and outdoors at 25% capacity, with city waivers required for more than 250 people. Attendees must remain seated and socially distanced.
- **Indoor dining** remains allowed at 25% capacity or up to 250 people.
 - 10 people may sit at a table
 - Live music will be allowed outdoors, controlled by the restaurants.
 - If customers are sitting outside, alcohol sales are allowed without purchasing food.
- **Museums, galleries, and exhibits** will be able to operate at indoors and outdoors at 50% capacity
- Non-essential **retail** indoors and outdoors will be able to operate at 50% capacity (250 people max)
- Seated **live entertainment** (i.e. **theater**) will be allowed at 25% capacity (up to 500 people)
- **Sports**: field permits will be issued for spring seasons, and professional sports may operate pursuant to a waiver. Anticipated capacity is for 10,000 fans at Nationals Park; 5,000 at Audi Field; 2,100 at Capital One Arena and 450 at the Entertainment and Sports Arena.
- **Outdoor races** will be allowed at 50% capacity (i.e. 5Ks)
- **Weddings** and **special events** will be allowed indoors and outdoors at 25% capacity (with a waiver for attendance greater than 250). Attendees must remain seated and socially distanced.
- **School graduations** and **awards ceremonies** are allowed indoors and outdoors with capacity limits.
- **Live music** will be allowed near outdoor restaurant seating
- **Libraries** may operate at 50% capacity
- **Recreation centers** may operate indoors 50% capacity
- **Movie theaters** may operate at 25% capacity
- Indoor and outdoor **public pools** may open at 50% capacity

- Outdoor **splash pads** are open at full capacity
- Phase 2 guidance is online at coronavirus.dc.gov/phasetwo. The [public health emergency](#) is in effect through May 20, 2021.

DC Travel & Testing Requirements (UPDATED May 7, 2021)

Fully Vaccinated DC Residents and Visitors ([May 1, 2021](#)) may:

- Travel **domestically** without testing for COVID-19 unless required by the destination
- Resume activities (in DC) after **domestic** travel without quarantining
- Travel **internationally** from DC without getting tested or quarantining after unless required by the destination; but must show a negative test before boarding a flight back to the U.S. and get tested 3-5 days after returning.
- **To know:** fully vaccinated is defined as 14 days after the second dose of a 2-dose series, or after one dose of a single-dose vaccine

Unvaccinated Travelers

- **You don't need a COVID-19 test if:**
 - Traveling from Maryland and Virginia or a low-risk area (as of May 2, low-risk areas are: Alabama, Arkansas, California, Guam, Hawaii, Kansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Northern Mariana Islands or Virgin Islands).
 - You're in DC less than 24 hours.
- **A COVID-19 test is required if:**
 - Traveling from a high-risk area or visiting for more than a day (must test negative within 72 hours of visiting)
 - If you're in DC for more than 3 days, limit activities and take a second test in DC 3-5 days after your arrival.
- **To know:**
 - There are [testing/quarantine exceptions](#) if you're on essential travel or if you've tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 90 days AND do not have any symptoms.
 - Private institutions and local government officials may ask for proof of a negative test, so visitors should travel with their vaccination card.

Reopening Metrics - coronavirus.dc.gov/page/reopening-metrics

- The timing of when it is safe to relax certain social (physical) distancing policies will be determined in part by criteria from DC Health (community spread, health system capacity, public health system capacity and community engagement)
- A [color-coded table online](#) has an update on DC's status.
- Visit coronavirus.dc.gov for additional updates including [guidance for the general public](#).

Additional Status Updates

- [Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority](#) COVID-19 information; beginning May 29, [face coverings are required](#) at Reagan National and Dulles International airports.
- [Restaurant Association Metropolitan Washington](#) COVID-19 resources
- The Walter E. Washington Convention Center (WEWCC) [alternate care site](#) will likely be broken down soon. The WEWCC remains a vaccination site.

- Metro will [restore most service](#) to pre-COVID-19 levels beginning Aug. 16. As of Sept. 1, Riders can now add a SmarTrip card to iPhone and Apple Watch for contactless payment. For current and future service hours, visit wmata.com. Face masks are required.
- Find additional local transportation information at goDCgo.

washington.org

Destination DC regularly updates **washington.org** with the latest information on DC's [travel status](#) and prominently shares safety protocols with consumers. The website is a resource for what how people can safely experience the city right now, from knowing which museums are open to ordering takeout and delivery. Content includes:

- [Coronavirus-Related Reopenings, Closures And Canceled Events In Washington, DC](#)
- [Things to Do this Weekend](#)
- [Things to Do this Month](#)
- [DC Hotels That Are Open](#)
- [Stay Local DC: A Guide to Planning a Staycation with What's Open, Deals & More](#)
- [DC Restaurant and Carryout Guide](#)
- [Washington, DC Zoom Backgrounds](#)

CDC Guidance for Vaccinated Individuals

Fully vaccinated people may:

- **Resume domestic travel** and **do not** need to get tested before or after travel or self-quarantine after travel. They **do not** need to get tested before leaving the U.S. (unless required by the destination) or self-quarantine after arriving back in the U.S.
- **Travel internationally** without a pre-test, depending on the destination's requirements, and travel internationally without quarantining after travel (though should get a COVID test 3-5 days following the return to the U.S.)
- Visit with other **fully vaccinated people indoors** without wearing masks or physical distancing
- Gather outdoors **without wearing a mask** except in certain crowded settings and venues.
- Visit with **unvaccinated people from a single household who are at low risk** for severe COVID-19 disease indoors without wearing masks or physical distancing
- Refrain from quarantine and testing following a known exposure if asymptomatic

Precautions fully vaccinated people should still follow include:

- Wear masks, practice physical distancing, and adhere to other prevention measures when visiting with unvaccinated people who are at [increased risk for severe COVID-19](#) disease or who have an unvaccinated household member who is at increased risk
- Wear masks, maintain physical distance, and practice other prevention measures when visiting with unvaccinated people from multiple households
- Avoid medium- and large-sized in-person gatherings

National Travel Recommendations:

- [CDC travel guidance](#)
- Feb. 2: National Park Service implements a [mask requirement](#) across all parks and federal buildings.
- Jan. 21: President Biden signed an [executive order](#) requiring masks while traveling on all forms of public transportation, including planes, trains, buses and at airports.

- Beginning Jan. 26, 2021, the [CDC requires](#) a negative COVID-19 test [no more than three days](#) before boarding an international flight to the U.S. The requirement is in effect for all passengers including U.S. citizens.
- Dec. 2, 2020: Updated [quarantine guidelines](#) change to 7-10 days based on testing and symptoms
- CDC [recommendations by destination](#)
- U.S. Department of State [guidance](#)
- U.S. state health agencies [links](#)

Industry/Meetings Resources:

- U.S. Travel Association's comprehensive [information](#) for the travel industry
- CDC's [guide for businesses](#)
- PCMA [FAQs](#) and [recovery plan](#)

National/International Resources:

- [CDC travel notices](#)
- CDC COVID-19 [webpage](#)
- WHO COVID-19 [webpage](#)