



USMS COVID-19 Vaccination Guidance (updated 9.16.21)

As the coronavirus pandemic continues to evolve, U.S. Masters Swimming has updated guidance for our clubs, events, and volunteers.

We encourage members to continue following safety measures recommended by the CDC and local health officials to avoid COVID-19. COVID-19 vaccination policies, perspectives, and expectations vary widely throughout the country, which makes a single national policy for all USMS clubs and events challenging.

Fortunately, the [CDC hasn't found evidence that COVID-19 can spread through chlorinated water. A study earlier this year in the U.K.](#) found that chlorinated water can deactivate the coronavirus within 30 seconds. Swimming has been shown to be a safe fitness option with the proper precautions in place.

Based on those factors, USMS isn't requiring COVID-19 vaccination for participation in club activities or sanctioned events. USMS will continue following CDC guidelines, and we're providing extensive recommendations and resources for [clubs](#) and [events](#) to provide a safe environment for our members to swim for fitness and competition. In addition to our resources, the [CDC's Healthy Swimming website](#) provides information on how to ensure a healthy and safe swimming environment, as does the [Aquatics Coalition](#).

USMS clubs and locally sanctioned events may determine the COVID-19 safety measures for activities to best serve their swimmers, which may include proof of vaccination or a negative COVID-19 test in order to participate. Should a facility or government agency make these requirements to either host or permit USMS activities, those requirements should be factored into plans. If COVID-19 vaccination is required, it's recommended to have a policy for the consideration of medical or religious exemptions, a clear process of verification, and considerations for swimmer privacy. Examples may be available from other local entities requiring vaccination.

In all cases, federal, state, and local health guidelines and orders, and applicable regulations, supersede all USMS guidance.

USMS members want to swim, and our goal is to make that as safe as possible for as many adults as possible. We ask our clubs, event directors, and Local Masters Swimming Committee volunteers to place the safety of USMS members first when determining the best approach to club and event activities while also recognizing the desire of USMS members to continue their training, whether for health, fitness, or competitions.