

Wildlife Conservation Society
COVID-19 Vaccination Policy and Key to NYC Implementation Plan
Effective: 2021-09-10

Identification

Name of Business/Establishment: The following NYC zoos and aquarium operated by Wildlife Conservation Society: Bronx Zoo, Central Park Zoo, Queens Zoo, Prospect Park Zoo and New York Aquarium

Address: Bronx Zoo, 2300 Southern Blvd., Bronx, NY, 10460
Central Park Zoo, 830 5th Ave., NY, NY 10065
Queens Zoo, 53-51 111th St., Corona, NY, 11368
Prospect Park Zoo, 450 Flatbush Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11225
New York Aquarium, 602 Surf Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11224

Name of Owner/Manager: City of New York/Wildlife Conservation Society

Definitions

Essential Employee means an employee necessary for animal care and essential business operations onsite at WCS's NYC zoo and aquarium facilities.

Fully Vaccinated. People are considered fully vaccinated for COVID-19 two weeks after they have received the second dose in a 2-dose series (Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna), or two weeks after they have received a single-dose vaccine (Johnson & Johnson or Janssen).

Indoors means any part of a covered premises with a roof or overhang that is enclosed by at least three walls, except that the following will not be considered an indoor portion: (1) a structure on the sidewalk or roadway if it is entirely open on the side facing the sidewalk; and (2) an outdoor dining structure for individual parties, such as a plastic dome, if it has adequate ventilation to allow for air circulation.

Non-Essential Employee means an employee based at a WCS NYC zoo or aquarium facility as their normal work location who is not an Essential Employee.

Proof of Vaccination means proof of receipt of at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine authorized for emergency use or licensed for use by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration or authorized for emergency use by the World Health Organization, as evidenced by one of the acceptable forms of proof outlined below.

Policy

1. **Non-Essential Employees.** In order to enter a WCS NYC zoo or aquarium facility, Non-Essential Employees must display proof of fully vaccinated status for COVID-19, and identification bearing the same identifying information as the proof of vaccination.

2. Other Employees, Visitors and Guests.

- a. In order to enter an indoor portion of a WCS NYC zoo or aquarium facility, the following individuals age 12 and older must display proof of at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine, and for those age 18 and older, identification bearing the same identifying information as the proof of vaccination:
 - i. Essential Employees, volunteers, interns and contractors working in a WCS NYC zoo or aquarium facility;
 - ii. Individuals entering a WCS NYC zoo or aquarium facility for a professional, business-related visit or meeting; and
 - iii. Public guests at a WCS NYC zoo or aquarium facility.
 - b. The vaccination requirement for entering an indoor area does not apply to:
 - i. Individuals entering for a quick and limited purpose, e.g., individuals making deliveries or pickups, using the restroom, or individuals who enter the establishment solely for the purpose of making quick and limited necessary repairs (i.e., repairs that are immediately necessary and can be completed in one day or less). These individuals must still comply with WCS Face Coverings Policy for Guests (see below). Individuals who regularly enter indoor locations at WCS NYC facilities as part of their job duties are not eligible for this exception.
 - ii. Take-out food service establishments operating exclusively for off-premises or outdoor consumption, including WCS's restaurants and food service establishments that do not offer indoor dining.
 - iii. A nonresident, nonemployee performing artist, or a nonresident, nonemployee individual accompanying such a performing artist, while the performing artist or individual is at a WCS zoo or aquarium for the purposes of such artist's performance.
3. Children under age 12 (who are not eligible for the vaccine) can enter an indoor portion of a WCS NYC zoo or aquarium facility with a vaccinated adult, provided such children comply with the WCS Face Coverings Policy for Guests.
4. Regardless of vaccination status, the WCS Face Coverings Policy for Staff and the WCS Face Coverings Policy for Guests remain in effect.
- a. WCS Face Coverings Policy for Staff: [click here](#) (available at OurWCS > Z&A Reopening Info/Training > Safety Plan, Policies & Procedures)
 - b. WCS Face Covering Policy for Guests: Consistent with Center for Disease Control (CDC) guidance, all guests must wear face coverings indoors, regardless of vaccination status, unless such guests are participating in a private event held in a private space that is not open to the public. At such events, face coverings are recommended for anyone age 12 and over; children ages 2 to 11 must be accompanied by a vaccinated adult and remain masked. Indoors, all guests, regardless of vaccination status, may remove face coverings for eating and drinking when socially distanced or, at events when seated with members of their own party. Face coverings are optional outdoors for fully vaccinated guests. Unvaccinated guests over the age of 2 years are required to wear a mask at all outdoor areas where 6 feet of distance cannot be maintained. Outdoors, unvaccinated guests may remove face coverings for eating and drinking when socially distanced or, at events, when seated with members of their own party.

Proof of Vaccination

WCS will accept the following documentation as proof of vaccination:

- A photo or hard copy of a completed CDC vaccination card
- NYC COVID Safe App
- New York State Excelsior App
- Official vaccine record (reflecting the person's name, date of vaccine, and any of the following brands of vaccine: Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna-NIAID, Johnson & Johnson-Janssen)
- If a vaccine was administered outside the United States, a photo or hard copy of an official vaccination record for one of the following vaccines: AstraZeneca/SK Bioscience, Serum Institute of India/COVISHIELD and Vaxzevria, Sinopharm, or Sinovac. Vaccine record must show:
 - First name and last name
 - Date of birth
 - Vaccine product name (ex: AstraZeneca/SK Bioscience)
 - Date(s) administered
 - Site where the vaccine was administered or person who administered the vaccine

Proof of Identification

The identification must contain either the name of the individual and a photo of the individual, or the name of the individual and the individual's date of birth. A comparison must be made between the name and photo or date of birth with that displayed on the proof of vaccination.

WCS will accept the following documentation as proof of identification:

- Driver's license
- Non-driver government ID card
- IDNYC card
- Passport
- School or work ID card.

Individuals may also show copies of their identification document, including a picture on their phone or by using an app like NYC COVID Safe that allows them to display a copy of the document.

Procedures for Verifying Proof of Vaccination and Identification

Essential Employees and Interns: to be verified using VitalCheck, WCS's digital verification solution. Such staff will upload proof of their first vaccine shot, to be verified by the Human Health Services Manager ("HHS Manager"). Once verified, the HHS Manager will mark this staff as cleared, making their names accessible to VitalCheck administrators in the employee or intern's department. VitalCheck administrators will ensure all staff affected by this Policy have been cleared.

Non-essential employees: to be verified using VitalCheck. Non-essential employees will upload proof of their full vaccination, to be verified by the HHS Manager. Once verified, the HHS Manager will mark these employees as cleared, making their names accessible to VitalCheck administrators in the employee's department. VitalCheck administrators will ensure all employees affected by this Policy have been cleared.

Guests:

1. Public visitors: proof of vaccination and ID will be checked at the entrance to every WCS park. Guests who have at least one dose of the vaccine will receive a wristband. Only individuals with a wristband can enter indoor WCS premises. The following exceptions are noted:
 - a. Queens Zoo is an all-outdoor park. Proof of vaccination or IDs will not be requested for regular entry. In the event of any indoor special programs, proof of vaccination and ID will be requested prior to entry.
 - b. New York Aquarium is a mostly-indoor park. All guests 12 and older must show proof of vaccination and ID to enter.
2. Event or Program Participants: proof of vaccination and ID will be checked prior to entering an indoor location at a WCS park. Only those participants who have received at least one dose may enter.

Volunteers: Vaccination to be verified by one of two methods, depending on the managing WCS department:

- a. To be verified using VitalCheck. Volunteers will upload proof of vaccination, to be verified by the managing WCS department. Once verified, the managing WCS department will mark these volunteers as cleared, making their names accessible to VitalCheck administrators in the volunteer's department. VitalCheck administrators will ensure all volunteers affected by this Policy have been cleared.
- b. WCS volunteer manager staff in each department will check proof of vaccination and ID. The names of verified volunteers will be collected on a centralized & accessible spreadsheet or other recordkeeping method.

Contractors: Vaccination to be verified by the following methods, depending on the location:

- a. Bronx Zoo:
 - i. Certain contractors who regularly work onsite may be verified by the managing WCS department; those who are clear will be given individualized contractor cards showing their cleared status, which they must display before entry.
 - ii. All others will be verified using the method in item (c) below.
- b. New York Aquarium:
 - i. Certain contractors and subcontractors who regularly work onsite may be verified by their construction manager or the managing WCS department. Those who are cleared will be given wristbands, and the names of cleared individuals will be provided to the managing WCS department.
 - ii. All others will be verified using the method in item (c) below.
- c. All others contractors at the Bronx Zoo and New York Aquarium, as well as all affected contractors at WCS's three other NYC zoos: proof of vaccination and ID will be checked upon entering a WCS park. Contractors who have at least one dose of the vaccine will receive a wristband. Only contractors with a wristband, or those covered by an exception, can enter indoor WCS premises.

Professional Visitors: individuals entering a WCS NYC animal park for a professional, business-related visit or meeting will be required to show proof of vaccination and ID at the entrance to every WCS park. Professional Visitors who have at least one dose of the vaccine will receive a wristband. Only individuals with a wristband can enter indoor WCS premises.

Additional Procedures for Events and Programs

WCS will make face coverings available for event and program participants.

The following warning will be posted at any event or program: **“COVID-19 Warning:** An inherent risk of exposure to COVID-19 exists in any public place where people are present. In accordance with New York State and CDC guidance, unvaccinated people continue to be responsible for wearing face coverings at WCS facilities. By visiting WCS facilities, you voluntarily assume all risks related to exposure to COVID-19.”

WCS will collect the names of vendor staff who provide services during WCS events or programs.

Location Where Required Signage is Posted

Required signage is posted at the arrival gates for all WCS zoos & the aquarium.

Accommodations

WCS will consider reasonable accommodations in the implementation of this Policy, in accordance with applicable law.