# VR Standards for Providers Frequently Asked Questions

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This FAQ provides guidance on the use of COVID-19.

## Question 1: What are the current requirements related to face covering?

**Answer:**

On July 29, 2021, Executive Order GA 38 was issued by Governor Greg Abbott stating no governmental entity, including TWC-VR, may require a person to wear a face covering. Governor Greg Abbott subsequently issued Executive Order GA-39 (GA-39), on August 25, 2021. GA-39 only supersedes paragraph 2 of GA-38 and does otherwise impact the guidance set forth below.

TWC strongly encourages employees and customers to wear face coverings but does not require the use of face coverings. Generally speaking, a private business can set their own rules and policies for face covering, as long as they do not discriminate against a protected class of people (e.g., on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, or disability).

In areas where the COVID-19 transmission rate is high, individuals and businesses are encouraged to follow the safe practices they have already mastered, such as wearing face coverings over the nose and mouth wherever it is not feasible to maintain six feet of social distancing from another person not in the same household, but no person may be required by any jurisdiction to wear or to mandate the wearing of a face covering.

In providing or obtaining services, every person (including individuals, businesses, and other legal entities) is strongly encouraged to use good-faith efforts and available resources to follow the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) health recommendations, found at <https://www.dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus/>.

## Question 2: What are the current requirements related to having or obtaining a COVID-19 vaccination?

**Answer:**

No governmental entity, (including TWC VR), can require any provider or customer to receive a COVID-19 vaccine or show proof of a vaccination for COVID-19.

## Question 3: Do the current requirements related to having or obtaining a COVID-19 vaccination include TWC-VR contracted providers?

**Answer:**

Yes, any public or private entity that is receiving or will receive public funds through any means, including grants, contracts, loans, or other disbursements of taxpayer money, shall not require a customer to provide, as a condition of receiving any service or entering any place, documentation regarding the customer’s vaccination status for any COVID-19 vaccine. No customer may be denied entry to a facility financed in whole or in part by public funds for failure to provide documentation regarding the customer’s vaccination status for any COVID-19.