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Honolulu to drop all capacity limits for large events, businesses

Hawaii Public Radio | By [HPR News Staff](#)

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Office Of Honolulu Mayor Rick Blangiardi / Facebook

Honolulu Mayor Rick Blangiardi updates the COVID-19 rules on Nov. 23, 2021.

O'ahu businesses, restaurants and large events will be allowed to operate at full capacity starting Dec. 1, Honolulu Mayor Rick Blangiardi [announced](#) Tuesday. Food and beverages will be allowed at events at that time.

The mayor also lifted contact tracing requirements, meaning customers will not have to fill out information forms.



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Blangiardi said the current environment gives the city confidence that restrictions are no longer needed. He cited O'ahu's fully vaccinated rate of 80% for people aged 5 and over as a factor — about 93% have received at least one dose.

"Look, we're here now at a place and time where everything about this disease, now we're on top of, from vaccinations to the hospitalizations, even our case counts are down," he said. "We've gone through a lot this past year, it's a time to celebrate and be careful, be responsible, this war is not over, but we're ready to step forward."

City And County Of Honolulu

The relaxed capacity restrictions for social gatherings, businesses and more begin Wednesday, Dec. 1, 2021.

Starting Dec. 1, those who can provide a negative COVID-19 test taken within 48 hours will be allowed at events. Previously, only vaccinated people were permitted to attend.

Indoor gyms will also be allowed to operate at full capacity. Masks must be worn, and proof of vaccination or a negative test must be provided.

That also applies to events and businesses serving food and beverages.

Face coverings will still be required at all indoor businesses — and at outdoor and indoor events such as football games and weddings.



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Blangiardi said the city's COVID-19 testing sites will remain open for the "foreseeable future," but not indefinitely.

Gov. David Ige will hold a press conference Tuesday afternoon with county mayors to provide updates on the state-level restrictions.

Blangiardi said he was optimistic that Ige would lift the 6-feet spacing requirement between tables at restaurants.

The mayor said he also expects updates from the governor about the state limit of 10 people for indoor social gatherings and 25 people for outdoor gatherings.

[Click here](#) to read the full emergency order.



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