

Why we are requiring proof of vaccination at Ten Thousand Waves

Simply: we choose to be part of the solution.

Since the pandemic began, Ten Thousand Waves has gone beyond what was required to protect its staff and guests from the virus. We closed in March 2020 before it was mandated by the state of New Mexico. We have installed [equipment to minimize the spread](#) of aerosol virus in all indoor spaces. We require that staff and guests wear masks indoors and that guests receiving bodywork be vaccinated. Nearly everyone working here has been fully vaccinated since May.

New Mexico has been a progressive leader in science-based policies to limit the effects of COVID. But nationwide, COVID infection levels are at a six-month high and hospitals are at capacity. Our healthcare workers are burning out from the substantial load placed upon them. Our school systems and children are struggling, and years of education have been lost.

Some of the messaging in the U.S. frames vaccination as a personal choice. But pandemics by definition are a collective problem. As individuals continue to myopically argue for their right not to vaccinate, the pandemic continues to leave death and tragedy in its wake.

It's obvious that what we have been doing is not enough. In a bold move to meet the problem head on, New York City, San Francisco, and a number of other municipalities have mandated vaccination for staff and clients of all indoor public facilities. A growing number of institutions in government and the private sector are requiring vaccination for all employees. We feel that this is the direction we all must go, and if it requires individual businesses to lead the charge, so be it. Everyone is safer when everyone is vaccinated.

As of September 1, 2021, at Ten Thousand Waves:

- all guests receiving massage, facials, and spa treatments must be fully vaccinated – no exceptions
- all lodging and hot tub guests must be fully vaccinated or show proof of a negative COVID test prior to service
- all guests dining indoors at izanami must be fully vaccinated or show proof of a negative COVID test prior to service

We know that some will disagree with our decision, but we have no greater responsibility than to ensure the safety of our guests and staff.