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No Shot, No Service: Abu Dhabi To Ban Unvaccinated People From Most Public Places

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TOPLINE The United Arab Emirates has introduced some of the world's harshest restrictions for unvaccinated people in its push to encourage uptake of the shot, announcing Monday that residents of its capital city Abu Dhabi who aren't yet inoculated will be banned from most public places.

A medical worker, wearing disposable gloves , measures the temperature of a man at a coronavirus ...

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KEY FACTS

- The emirate's media office said in a series of tweets that it is introducing the ban to encourage vaccinations and preserve public health, though 93% of target groups have been vaccinated.

- The ban will go into effect Aug. 20, giving the city's residents some time to get vaccinated against the virus before the measures are enacted.

- Once that date rolls around, those without the shot will not be allowed to enter public and private schools, universities, nurseries, shopping centers, restaurants, cafes, gyms, museums, theme parks, resorts and all other retail outlets.

- The main exceptions are retail outlets selling essential goods, such as supermarkets and pharmacies, which all people will still be allowed to enter regardless of their vaccination status.

- The order—which the media office said was approved by the Abu Dhabi Emergency, Crisis and Disaster Committee—will not apply to children under the age of 16 and those who have an official reason to be exempt from vaccination.

CRUCIAL QUOTE

"The committee stated the decision would enhance safety in areas that have been subject to additional precautionary measures and provide enhanced protection for community members," the Abu Dhabi Government Media Office said in its statement.

KEY BACKGROUND

The UAE has the highest vaccination rate in the world, boasting a rate of 154 doses administered per 100 people, according to a tracker run by *The New York Times*. Though it has not shared updated data on how many people

have been fully or partially vaccinated, *Reuters* estimates the number of doses it has administered (over 15 million) means around 77.1% of the country's population has been fully inoculated. Nonetheless, a UAE federal authority recently sounded the alarm about rising cases and deaths linked to the more infectious delta variant. The country is averaging just over 2,100 new cases and 6 new deaths each day, data from Johns Hopkins University shows.

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