



European
Commission

EU Digital COVID Certificate

1 JUNE 2021

#EUCOVIDCertificate

The EU Digital COVID Certificate will facilitate safe free movement of citizens in the EU during the COVID-19 pandemic. The certificate will be introduced in EU Member States. Countries can start issuing and using already and it will become available in all EU Member States as of 1 July.



WHAT IS THE EU DIGITAL COVID CERTIFICATE?

An EU Digital COVID Certificate is a digital proof that a person:

- ✓ has been vaccinated against COVID-19, or
- ✓ has received a negative test result, or
- ✓ has recovered from COVID-19.

- › Digital and/or paper format
- › With QR code
- › Free of charge
- › In national language and English
- › Safe and secure
- › Valid in all EU countries



TIMELINE

1 JUNE

EU Gateway (interconnection of national systems) goes live

1-30 JUNE

Member States can launch the certificate on a voluntary basis

MID-JUNE

Revised Council Recommendation on travel within the EU

1 JULY

The EU Digital COVID Certificate enters into application throughout the EU

1 JULY-12 AUGUST

Phase-in period: if a Member State is not yet ready to issue the new certificate to its citizens, other formats can still be used and should be accepted in other Member States

FACILITATING SAFE FREE MOVEMENT FOR CITIZENS ACROSS EUROPE

HOW WILL I GET THE EU DIGITAL COVID CERTIFICATE?

National authorities are in charge of issuing the certificate. It could, for example, be issued by test centres or health authorities, or directly via an eHealth portal. The digital version can be stored on a mobile device. Citizens can also request a paper version. Both will have a QR code that contains essential information, as well as a digital signature to make sure the certificate is authentic.

Member States have agreed on a common design that can be used for the electronic and paper versions to facilitate the recognition.

I AM NOT VACCINATED YET, WILL I BE ABLE TO GO TO ANOTHER EU COUNTRY?

Yes. The EU Digital COVID Certificate should facilitate free movement inside the EU. It **will not be a pre-condition to free movement**, which is a fundamental right in the EU. The EU Digital COVID Certificate will also prove the results of testing, which is often required under applicable public health restrictions. The certificate is an opportunity for Member States to adjust the existing restrictions on public health grounds. The currently applicable recommendation on coordinating free movement restrictions in the EU will also be amended by mid-June with a view to the holiday season.

WHICH DATA DOES THE CERTIFICATE INCLUDE?

The EU Digital COVID Certificate contains necessary key information such as name, date of birth, date of issuance, relevant information about vaccine/test/recovery and a unique identifier. This data remains on the certificate and is not stored or retained when a certificate is verified in another Member State.

HOW WILL IT HELP FREE MOVEMENT?

The EU Digital COVID Certificate will be **accepted in all EU Member States**. It will help to ensure that restrictions currently in place can be lifted in a coordinated manner.

When travelling, the EU Digital COVID Certificate holder should in principle be exempted from free movement restrictions: Member States should refrain from imposing additional travel restrictions on the holders of an EU Digital COVID Certificate, unless they are necessary and proportionate to safeguard public health.

In such a case – for instance as a reaction to new variants of concern – that Member States would have to notify the Commission and all other Member States and justify this decision.

DOES IT MATTER WHICH COVID-19 VACCINE I RECEIVE?

Vaccination certificates will be issued to a vaccinated person for any COVID-19 vaccine. When it comes to waiving free movement restrictions, Member States will have to accept vaccination certificates for vaccines, which received **EU marketing authorisation**. Member States may decide to extend this also to EU travellers that received another vaccine.

It is also for Member States to decide whether they accept a vaccination certificate after one dose or after a full vaccination cycle has been completed.

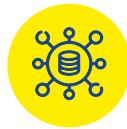
ARE MY PERSONAL DATA SAFE?

The certificates will only include a limited set of information that is necessary. This cannot be retained by visited countries. For verification purposes, only the validity and authenticity of the certificate is checked, by verifying who issued and signed it. All health data remains with the Member State that issued an EU Digital COVID Certificate.

HOW DOES THE EU DIGITAL COVID CERTIFICATE WORK ACROSS THE EU



The EU Digital COVID Certificate contains a QR code with a digital signature to protect it against falsification.



Each issuing body (e.g. a hospital, a test centre, a health authority) has its own digital signature key. All of these are stored in a secure database in each country.



When the certificate is checked, the QR code is scanned and the signature verified.



The European Commission has built a gateway through which, all certificate signatures can be verified across the EU. The personal data of the certificate holder does not pass through the gateway, as this is not necessary to verify the digital signature. The European Commission also helped Member States to develop national software and apps to issue, store and verify certificates and supported them in the necessary tests to onboard the gateway.

THE EU DIGITAL COVID CERTIFICATE IN PRACTICE

