



GMS Flash Alert

Immigration Edition

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European Union - Report on COVID-19 Certificates

On 18 October 2021, the European Commission adopted a report¹ on the EU Digital COVID Certificate and its implementation across the European Union (EU). The report shows that more than 591 million digital certificates have been generated and 43 countries and territories² are connected to the EU system for digital COVID certificates.

The EU has ongoing technical discussion with 28 countries to include them in the EU system for digital COVID-19 certificates.³

WHY THIS MATTERS

The EU Digital COVID-19 Certificate proves that a person has been vaccinated against COVID-19, received a negative test result, or recovered from COVID-19.

The digital certificate makes travelling safer and easier in the 43 countries and territories that are connected to the EU system. For example, the certificate could mean that one does not have to quarantine or get tested upon arrival or repeatedly after arrival.

20 EU member states are using the EU Digital COVID Certificate for domestic purposes, such as for access to large-gathering events, cinemas, restaurants, museums, etc.

Travellers from countries that are not connected to the EU Digital COVID Certificate are subject to requirements that each member state sets out. For example, travellers can be required to provide printed forms of their COVID-19 certificates to enter the country or to enter public establishments such as bars and restaurants. Moreover, travellers can be subject to mandatory isolation and testing upon arrival.

Next Steps for COVID-19 Digital Certificate

The EU Commission will continue to monitor the validity of vaccinations and recovery certificates as well as the use of antibody and rapid antigen tests for recovery certificates, and reconsider options once new scientific guidance is available.

The EU Commission will among other things continue working on improving functionalities of the Digital COVID Certificate system, continue to connect new countries and territories to the system, and continue working with the European Medicines Agency and the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control for guidance on relevant developments in scientific evidence.⁴

The next report on the status of the EU Digital COVID Certificate is expected by the end of March 2022.

KPMG NOTE

It is still unclear if the vaccines that are yet to be approved by the European Medicines Agency will be accepted by each EU member state or if people vaccinated with those vaccines will need to test prior to their trips. When an individual is vaccinated with a vaccine that is not approved by the European Medicines Agency, it is up to each EU member state to decide if it will accept that vaccine as a sufficient proof for immunisation.

In any case, it is essential for all travellers to inform themselves thoroughly about all travel requirements before each trip. The EU Commission has set up a [website](#) and an app [Re-open EU](#) that contain detailed information about travel restrictions in the EU member states.

FOOTNOTES:

1 European Commission, "[The EU Digital COVID Certificate: a global standard with more than 591 million certificates](#)" (18 October 2021).

2 [Countries and territories](#) currently connected to the EU system for the Digital COVID Certificate: 27 EU member states, Albania, Andorra, Faroe Islands, Israel, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Morocco, Monaco, North Macedonia, Norway, Panama, San Marino, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, and The Vatican.

3 For prior coverage, see [GMS Flash Alert 2021-243](#), 23 September 2021.

4 European Commission, "[The EU Digital COVID Certificate: a global standard with more than 591 million certificates](#)" (18 October 2021).

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Contact us

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