

GETTING BACK TO BUSINESS TRAVEL DIGITAL HEALTH PASSES UPDATE

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW
BY BCD TRAVEL RESEARCH & INNOVATION

October 2021

CONTENTS

Click on the following topics to read more.

INTRODUCTION

DIGITAL HEALTH PASSES

Pass or certificate?

A variety of organizations are developing passes

Key things to consider about digital health passes

What's not yet entirely clear

MULTINATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

ICC AOKpass

CommonPass

IATA Travel Pass

Airlines may remain app agnostic

INTEGRATED TOOLS

Amadeus

AIRLINE SCHEMES

Air France

Delta Air Lines and Virgin Atlantic

Etihad Airways

Lufthansa

GOVERNMENT SCHEMES

European Union launches its digital pass

How it works

Personal data

Interoperability

Singapore

U.K.

INTEROPERABILITY

SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

In March 2021, we published [Getting back to business travel: Digital Health Passes](#). In this report, we outlined the concept of the digital health pass and explained some of the rationale behind its development. And we detailed the multiple companies that had plans to launch their own solutions. Since then, some have made more progress than others, but widespread introduction and adoption have yet to occur. Nearly two years since the first cases were detected, COVID-19 remains a highly disruptive threat to travel that demands a solution to help travelers navigate the complexities created by the pandemic.

We've created this new report as companion to the original paper, updating you on some of the recent developments and progress on digital health passes.



DIGITAL HEALTH PASSES

Digital health passes have been developed with a primary goal in mind: restoring safe cross-border travel; although they could be extended to domestic trips too in some countries. Digital health passes offer an added, secondary benefit: getting people back on the path to normality by enabling them to access their place of work, events, hospitality and other venues.

A growing number of countries are mandating vaccine passes in certain situations. **Italy** is one of the more recent examples. From October 15, it will impose some of Europe's strictest restrictions, requiring all workers to have a COVID-19 "**green pass**," providing proof of vaccination, a negative test result or recovery

from the virus.¹ Anyone without a pass faces suspension from work and possibly loss of pay. Green pass certificates—digital or paper versions—are already required in Italy to access rail stations, cinemas, restaurants, gyms and swimming pools.

In the **U.S.**, the government is planning to mandate vaccination or weekly testing for anyone working for companies with more than 100 employees, potentially affecting around **80 million** workers.² Some U.S. airlines already mandate employee vaccination. Unvaccinated airline workers may face higher insurance premiums, reduced sick-pay benefits and even dismissal.

¹ [BBC](#), Sept. 17, 2021

² [Business Travel News](#), Sept. 10, 2021

Proof of vaccination is increasingly seen as fundamental to living with the pandemic. With international travel's perception as a virus vector, particularly for the spread of new variants, it seems likely the role digital health passes play in facilitating safe travel will remain in some form for some time. This will be particularly true if other airlines follow the lead of **Qantas**, which plans to carry only vaccinated travelers on its international flights when it resumes them later this year.³ Digital health passes provide a quick and reliable way to prove vaccination.



Pass or certificate?

Some people are confused about the differences between digital health passes and health certificates and credentials. The Good Health Pass Collaborative provides a simple way to tell the difference between the two: Health passes or travel passes generate a **decision** and use only the personal data they need to make that decision.⁴ Determining if a person is “ready to fly” or is “good to return to the office” are the sorts of decisions that health or travel passes can support.

In contrast, health certificates and credentials contain far **more information**, including sensitive details about a person's health. Examples of health certificates include the WHO (World Health Organization) Smart Vaccination Certificate and the EU Digital COVID Certificate. Their integration as credentials into digital health and travel passes enables third parties to determine an individual's health status and verify that they have met the conditions needed for travel to specific destinations or accessing certain services and facilities.



³ [The Hill](#), Sept. 9, 2021

⁴ The Good Health Pass Interoperability Blueprint, Aug. 1, 2021

A variety of organizations are developing passes

A variety of organizations have been busy developing digital health passes. We detailed many of them in our [previous paper](#).

In the following we provide an update on some of the key developments over the last six months or so. But before doing that, it's worth highlighting some things to consider when looking to use digital health passes and also dwelling on some of the outstanding issues that still need to be clarified.

Key things to consider about digital health passes

There are some things about digital health passes that it's important to remember:

- With a few exceptions, digital health passes, and especially those being developed by multinational organizations such as IATA (International Air Transport Association) and the Commons Project, are **not yet fully deployed**. Some airlines have developed short-term solutions aimed at easing the burden for passengers and airport staff, but many continue to trial (often multiple) digital health passes on select routes.
- Digital health passes are **not mandatory**; their use by travelers is **optional**, although it's hoped the benefits that they offer will make them a travel essential, boosting **adoption** levels.
- Travelers might need to use **more than one digital health pass** on a single trip, as different passes may be recognized in different markets or adopted by individual airlines.
- Travelers need to feel **comfortable** using a digital health pass. Rather than mandating their use, travel managers should instead reassure travelers by answering any questions or concerns they might have.

Multinational Organizations	Airlines	Independent Digital Health Solutions	Government Health Passes
CommonPass IATA Travel Pass ICC AOKpass	Lufthansa Group AirAsia Emirates United Airlines AA (Verify)	Airside Mobile Augmented Borders Certus™ myHealth Pass CLEAR Health Pass CoronaPass™ IBM Digital Health Pass Immunitee SITA Health Protect V-Health Passport™ Yoti Digital ID	China Denmark Israel Saudi Arabia Sweden U.K. European Union

What's not yet entirely clear

It's now been more than one year since the travel industry established the need for digital health passes, and in spite of the development and testing that's happened since then, a number of questions have yet to be adequately addressed:

- How **widely accepted** will digital health passes be?
- How will **interoperability** work?
- How **easy to use** will travelers find the passes, especially when having to use multiple passes?
- Will the passes offer sufficient functionality when **working offline**, or will travelers face international mobile roaming charges when using them?
- Will digital health passes will be applied for **other types of travel**, e.g. rail?

MULTINATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

ICC AOKpass

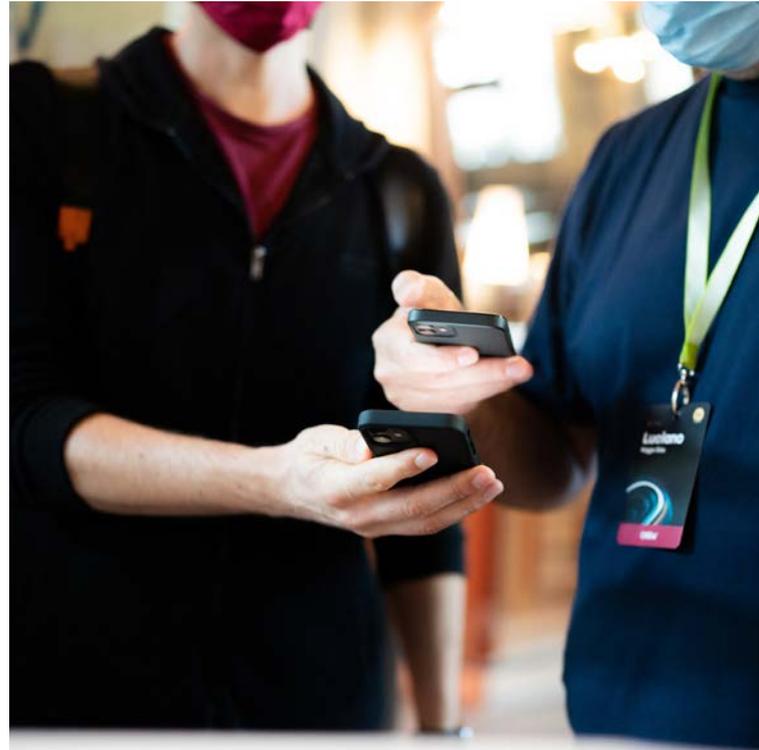
ICC AOKpass had been one of the early frontrunners in the development of digital health passes. Developed by partners including the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) and medical and security services company International SOS, the pass had been deployed in a number of countries and was being trialed by airlines including **Air France**, **Delta Air Lines** and **Etihad Airways**.

Progress since then appears to have been limited. Taiwanese carrier **Eva Air** did become the first Asian airline to trial the AOKpass, deploying it on its flights from Taipei to Los Angeles and San Francisco during July and August. Passengers were able to use the app to schedule COVID-19 tests and upload a QR code for airport staff to scan.⁵

CommonPass

This digital health pass was launched by the Commons Project Foundation and the World Economic Forum (WEF). The app has been built around the Common Trust Network comprising airlines, laboratories, airports and healthcare organizations around the world.

CommonPass has since taken an important step towards the global scale that it needs by partnering with TrustAssure and Affinidi. The move enhances both its appeal and application by securing access to the world's largest network of testing labs and vaccination providers, spanning more than **15,000** locations across **82** countries. Technology from the two companies will enable CommonPass



to verify any health credential type, including SMART Health Cards, HealthCerts, DIVOC and the recently launched EU Digital COVID Certificate, covering both test results and vaccination records. TrustAssure also makes it possible for CommonPass to include other documents, such as health declaration forms.

While CommonPass recognizes U.S. vaccination certificates, it does not yet appear to have expanded this functionality to European travelers, with the EU Digital COVID Certificate yet to be accepted by the digital health pass.

⁵ [Business Travel News](#), July 12, 2021

IATA Travel Pass

IATA advances the health pass agenda

As an organization representing the global interests of aviation, IATA seems to have assumed the role of advancing the prospects for widespread adoption of its digital health pass by actively engaging with other participants in the health credential verification system.

Being able to confirm full vaccination is increasingly helping travelers avoid some restrictions, such as quarantine, pre-departure and post-arrival testing. This is part of an important shift away from a country-based approach to determining travel restrictions towards an easing of restrictions based largely on an individual traveler's status.

To this end, IATA has taken an important step forwards for the adoption of its digital health pass solution. In a move that other app developers may want to follow, IATA Travel Pass can now recognize **EU Digital COVID Certificates (DCC)** issued by all 27 EU member states plus Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Qatar, Singapore and Switzerland. It can also upload vaccination certificates from the U.K.'s **NHS Covid Pass**.⁶ IATA believes other countries should adopt the EU's DCC, embracing it as the blueprint for digital health certificates. This could help simplify health credential verification when traveling internationally. Integration with the DCC undoubtedly enhances the credentials of the IATA digital health pass solution. IATA sees the DCC offering three advantages (over other certificates):

- Flexibility – it's available in both paper and digital formats
- QR code containing important information and confirms the authenticity of the certificate
- The gateway that's a key part of the DCC system allows authorities to more simply verify and authenticate traveler credentials

In the absence of a global standard, the DCC could be the blueprint that the world's looking for, with up to **60** countries looking to use its specification for their own certification. Digital health passes would be more workable and **interoperable** if everyone certified health status in the same way. DCC has the added advantage of allowing users to access a range of facilities and services requiring proof of health status – museums, sporting events, concerts, conferences and exhibitions.⁷



Image credit: ©UE/Christophe Licoppe, 2021/Source: EC – Audiovisual Service/Photo: Christophe Licoppe

⁶ [Business Travel News Europe](#), Aug. 19, 2021

⁷ [IATA](#)

IATA travel pass is expanding its appeal as an all-round solution

IATA always planned for Travel Pass to be more than simply a health credential verification tool, and it has been making progress on the app's other functionality. It has already launched a self-registration portal to make it easier for COVID-19 testing labs to join the **IATA Travel Pass Lab Network**, a list of lab locations around the world, so that travelers can easily find out where to access eligible testing.⁸

To this end, IATA is partnering with labs, such as SYNLAB, Europe's leading medical diagnostic services provider. Under its deal with SYNLAB, travelers will be able to access up to 450 testing laboratories and more than 1,600 sample collection points across 36 countries. SYNLAB will securely share certified COVID-19 test results with passengers directly through IATA Travel Pass, which will check the results against its registry of national entry requirements to produce an **"OK to Travel"** status. Travelers can seamlessly test, receive results and have their travel status confirmed all within a **single app environment**.



Trial, trial and trial some more

IATA's approach with airlines has been trial, trial and trial some more. Five months since its original launch in March 2021, more than 70 airlines around the world were trialing or had committed to a trial of IATA Travel Pass.

During July, **Vietnam Airlines** became one of the latest airlines to trial IATA Travel Pass, initially on flights between Da Nang and Tokyo.⁹ **Finnair** also started a one month trial of the app on its Helsinki-London Heathrow route in both directions.¹⁰ As an incentive to participate in the trial, passengers could use dedicated check-in counters at Helsinki and Heathrow, receive a loyalty program bonus and a 15% discount on COVID-19 tests taken in Helsinki. Like many airlines, Finnair is not committing solely to the IATA product, and it is exploring other digital solutions to ease traveling and COVID-19-related travel document management.

During September 2021, Kazakh carrier **Air Astana** joined the list of trialists, testing the app on its flights between Nur-Sultan and Istanbul. While it's a relatively small carrier, its engagement is still an important step in demonstrating the global reach and appeal of IATA's app.

Etihad Airways, which started trials of IATA Travel Pass in April, has now expanded use of the app to seven destinations served from Abu Dhabi. Passengers may now confirm their health status for flights to Bangkok, Barcelona, Geneva, Madrid, Milan, New York and Singapore. It's a tentative next step in fully rolling the service out across its network.¹¹

⁸ [Future Travel Experience](#), June 2021

⁹ [Breaking Travel News](#), July 9, 2021

¹⁰ [Finnair](#), July 21, 2021

¹¹ [Breaking Travel News](#), July 28, 2021

Emirates aiming for global roll-out

Having been one of the first airlines to trial IATA Travel Pass in April 2021, by the end of June, Emirates was offering the app to customers flying to Amsterdam, Barcelona, Frankfurt, Istanbul, London, Madrid, Moscow, New York JFK and Paris Charles de Gaulle. Anyone traveling on these flights receives a text or email with an activation code and instructions for downloading the IATA Travel Pass.

Emirates now aims to be one of the world's first airlines to roll out the digital health pass across its **entire network**.¹² By September 2021, the airline had made IATA Travel Pass available on flights to 50 destinations, and it expects to complete roll-out across its entire network during October.¹³ The adoption of IATA Travel Pass is part of a wider program of biometric, contactless and digital travel verification projects, which also includes a partnership with **Alhosn**, the U.A.E.'s official COVID-19 app. Emirates is integrating Alhosn into its check-in systems, enabling it to retrieve and verify passengers' health credentials.



More airlines follow Emirates' lead

At the beginning of October 2021, IATA confirmed that six more airlines will follow Emirates by implementing a phased roll-out of IATA Travel Pass across their networks. The group comprises Etihad Airways, Kuwaiti carrier Jazeera Airways, Qantas and its low-cost division Jetstar (see next section), Qatar Airways and Royal Jordanian.

Qantas to roll out IATA Travel Pass at the end of 2021

In a sign that digital health passes may be with us for some time, **Qantas** intends to roll out IATA Travel Pass, possibly when it resumes regular international flights in November, but more likely by mid-December. By connecting customers with testing facilities, health authorities and airlines, Qantas believes digital health passes are key to the opening of more travel bubbles and borders.

Airlines may remain app agnostic

In April 2021, **Japan Airlines (JAL)** tested CommonPass on its flights from Tokyo to Honolulu and Singapore, while at the same time it was implementing VeriFly on its flights to North America, aligning itself with partners including **American Airlines, British Airways** and **Iberia**. In May, JAL then tested the IATA Travel Pass on select international flights.¹⁴ So, it's hard to second guess where individual airlines are headed. While CommonPass and IATA Travel Pass are working towards industry standards, VeriFly is in practical use today among a small group of airlines. Airlines may be hedging their bets, to ensure they have a digital health pass solution for as many travelers and destinations as possible.

¹² [Emirates](#), June 28, 2021

¹³ [Khaaleej Times](#), Sept. 23, 2021

¹⁴ [Business Travel News](#), April 2, 2021

INTEGRATED TOOLS

Amadeus

Amadeus has developed **Traveler ID for Safe Travel** as its secure, digital solution for airlines, airports, hotels, travel agencies and other organizations involved in the travel process to digitally automate traveler identification and document verification, including COVID-19-related health credentials.¹⁵

The system has already been deployed by a number of airlines, including **Air Europa, Air Caraibes, Air Corsica, Frenchbee** and **Norwegian**. Amadeus expects to announce new airline customers for its solution, which it believes would also be of use by airports and hotels.

Low-cost carrier **Norwegian** is trialing the system's digital health verification capability.¹⁶ It will embed the Amadeus solution within its passenger self-service check-in experience on its app or website. After providing their health documents, **Traveler ID for Safe Travel** will check with Altea business rules to ensure these meet the destination's requirements. To ensure the app is accepted, Norwegian is working with the Norwegian government and health authorities.

By being integrated into Norwegian's check-in system, the passenger's health credentials can be quickly referred to throughout their trip, conveniently and securely.

Air Canada has also worked with Amadeus to develop its own tool to validate health requirements for travelers.¹⁷ Like Norwegian, this facility will be available through Air Canada's website and app. Passengers receive a link to submit documents during check-in and are notified after these have been verified. Under a trial on the airline's Frankfurt-Montreal and—Toronto services, travelers had the option of getting tested at Frankfurt Airport by Centogene Labs, which generates a QR code that can be scanned into the tool.

If successful, Air Canada will roll out the tool more widely and add new features, such as proof of vaccination status. The tool has been designed to work with other digital health passes.

In a first step towards delivering **interoperability** among digital health passes, Amadeus has partnered with the **IBM Digital Health Pass** into its **Traveler ID for Safe Travel** platform.¹⁸ Amadeus has previously talked about integrating **CommonPass** and **AOKPass** into its system, but the IBM solution is the first to have been successfully incorporated. As travelers check in for their flights, **Traveler ID for Safe Travel** checks the entry requirements at their destination, asking for the necessary documents to be uploaded digitally or scanned. **IBM Digital Health Pass** then authenticates the uploaded health credentials against laboratories, vaccination centers and healthcare providers around the world. Once this is done, IBM confirms with the airline that the passenger is ready to fly.

¹⁵ [Amadeus](#), Traveler ID

¹⁶ [Breaking Travel News](#), June 28, 2021

¹⁷ [Business Travel News](#), June 25, 2021

¹⁸ [Amadeus](#), July 22, 2021

AIRLINE SCHEMES

Even as they test and trial the digital health passes being developed by third parties like **IATA** and **CommonPass**, airlines are continuing to develop their own solutions. These could be temporary measures simply to ensure they're able to offer something today to make travel easier for their passengers, while they await the full implementation and launch of schemes like IATA Travel Pass. What's on offer to passengers ranges from simple document uploads pre-check-in to more sophisticated developments that might even remove the need for a third party solution. Examples of what some airlines had been doing feature below.

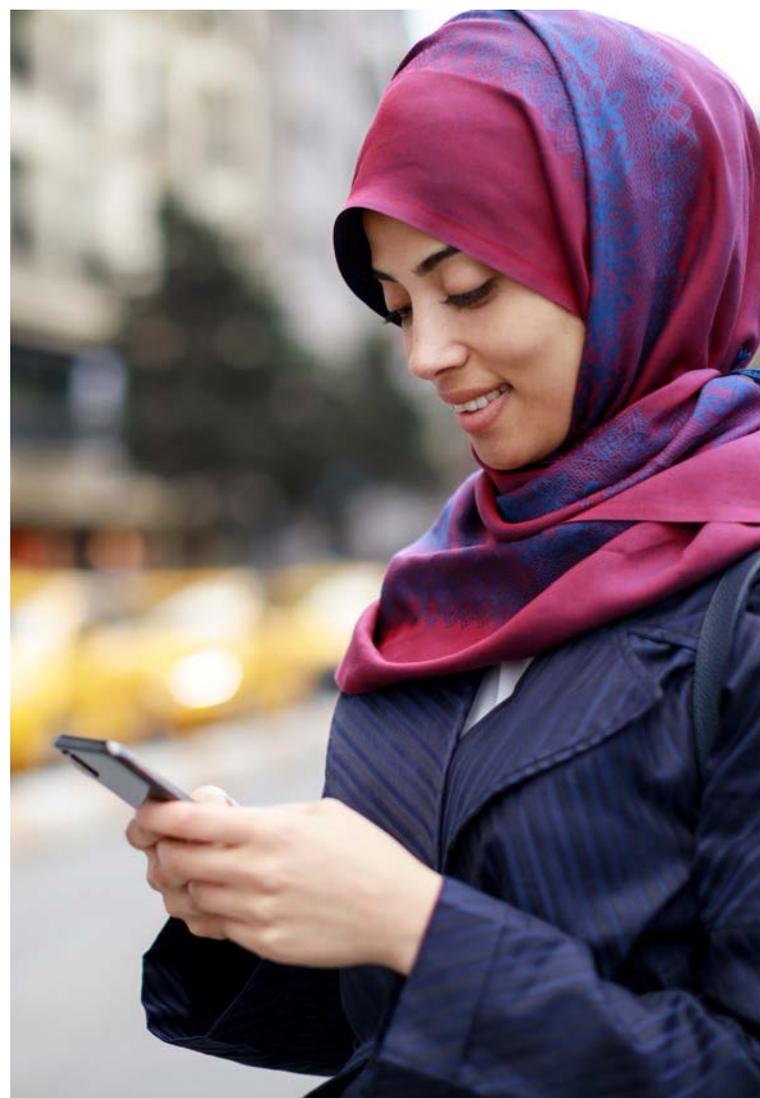
Air France

Launched in July 2021, Air France's **Ready to Fly** tool enables its passengers to upload any health documents required for travel, so that they can be checked and verified prior to check-in.¹⁹ Initially available on internal flights from Paris to Corsica and French overseas territories, the facility will be extended to other destinations.

Delta Air Lines and Virgin Atlantic

Together, partners Delta Air Lines and Virgin Atlantic have introduced **FlyReady**, a digital health credential solution aimed at streamlining transatlantic travel.²⁰ Its use should speed up the airport experience for passengers by simplifying the pre-check process at check-in. But that's not all it can do.

Delta FlyReady and **Virgin Atlantic FlyReady** are integrated into the airlines' online booking processes. Customers do not need a third party app, as they can access **FlyReady** from the **My Booking** page.



Using FlyReady, customers of the two airlines can:

- Securely upload and verify test certificates up to 90 minutes before departure. Within two minutes, customers should receive a confirmation of their **FlyReady** status.
- Book in-person COVID-19 tests up to three days prior to departure using a lab locator tool, which also determines which type of test is required.
- Save time at airport check-in with **FlyReady** status automatically linked to their booking reference. At London Heathrow customers with **FlyReady** can also use a dedicated fast-track check-in lane.

¹⁹ [Business Travel News](#), July 15, 2021

²⁰ [Virgin Atlantic](#), June 17, 2021

Etihad Airways

Within a month of its June 2021 launch, Etihad extended its **Verified to Fly** health document validation initiative to the vast majority of its flights. Passengers sign up to the service in **Manage my Booking** on the airline's website or app, enabling them to upload and submit the relevant documents. Passengers are notified once the airline confirms they meet the requirements of their destination.

Verified travelers can use a dedicated **Verified to Fly** desk for fast-track check-in, potentially halving their check-in time, and reducing the queue time for all passengers.

Lufthansa

Using the **Health Entry Support Center** (also known as the Lufthansa Service Center), Lufthansa passengers can have their COVID-19-related documents checked and verified before they fly from or to Germany. Documents include Digital Entry Applications (DRE for Germany, Passenger Locator Form in other countries), official COVID-19 test results, and proof of vaccination. Use of the digital service is voluntary, but it provides an alternative to having documents manually checked at the airport and the longer waiting times this may entail. Documents should be uploaded for checking up to 12 hours before departure.

By using the **Health Entry Support Center**, travelers benefit from early certainty that they've met all entry requirements, are quickly notified of any missing or incorrect documents, are issued with a digital boarding pass once documents have been successfully checked and can be reassured that they're traveling with the right documents.

Passengers traveling to Germany from non-risk areas of the Schengen Area have an

United Airlines

United Airlines has partnered with Apple Health to enable travelers to upload their COVID-19 vaccination records to the airline's Travel Ready Center. Travelers with records stored in the app can upload them and have them reviewed and approved by the airline.



Image credit: Etihad Airways

even simpler process to follow. Using mobile check-in on the Lufthansa app, they can scan the QR codes on EU vaccination certificates and COVID-19 test results from the Centogene laboratory.²¹ Digital boarding passes can be issued without further checks. Of course, passengers can still opt to use the **Health Entry Support Center** for complete reassurance.

Access to the Lufthansa Service Center has been extended to passengers flying with other Lufthansa Group airlines. Since August 2021, **Brussels Airlines** passengers traveling to France, Greece, Italy, Portugal and Spain have been able to check their travel documents remotely.²² Eligible passengers receive email prompts to upload their documents 6, 3 and 1 days before departure. Documents are checked at the Lufthansa Service Center, and once a passenger receives an email confirming everything is in order, they can check-in online.

Ahead of uploading their travel and health documents, Brussels Airlines passengers can check an interactive map to find out the latest requirements at their destination, including those for vaccinated and unvaccinated travelers.

²¹ [Lufthansa](#), Sept. 1, 2021

²² [Brussels Airlines](#), Aug. 17, 2021

GOVERNMENT SCHEMES

While they might lack the same range of functionality as the digital health passes, these state-sponsored health or vaccine passes should automatically be accepted outbound by airlines and border authorities. They may also have a wider application at home. And being government-backed, it may be easier to get other governments to accept these passes ahead of independently developed digital health passes, as has been the case with the EU Digital COVID Certificate.

European Union launches its digital pass

To facilitate the safe free movement of European Union (EU) citizens and residents within the EU, Member States are issuing the EU Digital COVID Certificate under a scheme that officially launched on **July 1, 2021**, and initially runs until the end of **June 2022**.

The certificates may be automatically issued as people are vaccinated and are available as both digital and paper versions. All EU Member States must accept the certificates, which exempt holders from restrictions on free movement. As well as being used by all 27 Member States, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland can also participate in the program.

The certificate provides digital evidence that the holder has been fully-vaccinated against COVID-19; has received a negative test result; or has recovered from COVID-19.



Image credit: ©UE/Christophe Licoppe, 2021/Source: EC – Audiovisual Service/Photo: Christophe Licoppe

How it works

When traveling within the EU, EU citizens carry the certificate with them. As they cross the border, a QR code on the certificate is scanned, verifying its digital signature and authenticating the certificate. Each organization that issues the certificate has its own digital signature key, and these are stored in a secure database in each country.

Using a gateway created by the European Commission, certificate signatures can be verified across the EU. The personal data of the certificate holder is not shared during this process.

The QR code will show if the holder has been vaccinated, has a negative test result, or has previously recovered from COVID-19. It is up to individual Member States to decide whether a vaccination certificate is accepted after one dose or after full-vaccination.

Personal data

The certificate contains certain key information: date of birth, date of certificate issuance, relevant information about vaccination, testing or recovery, and a unique identifier.²³

- Vaccination certificate: vaccine type and manufacturer, number of doses received, date of vaccination
- Test certificate: type of test, date and time of test, place and result
- Recovery certificate: date of positive test result, validity period

This information remains on the certificate and is not stored or retained whenever a Member State verifies the certificate. For verification purposes, Member States may only check the validity and authenticity of the certificate. All health data remains with the issuing Member State.

Interoperability

Interoperability is achieved by standardizing vaccination, test and recovery certificates across the EU according to agreed policies, rules and specifications. Any certificate issued in one Member State should therefore be verifiable in another Member State.

The European Commission (EC) is keen for non-EU countries to recognize the EU Digital COVID Certificate as they lift restrictions on non-essential travel. Similarly, may recognize certificates issued by non-EU countries, as long as they meet quality standards and are interoperable with the EU scheme.



Image credit: ©UE/ Xavier Lejeune, 2021/Source: EC – Audiovisual Service/Photo: Xavier Lejeune

Where the EC is satisfied that a non-EU country is issuing certificates in compliance with standards and systems interoperable with the EU scheme, then it may allow these certificates to be used under the same conditions as the EU Digital COVID Certificate.

At some stage the EC might issue EU Digital COVID Certificates to travelers from non-EU countries so that they can enter and travel around the EU.²⁴ It's unclear how this would work and when it would be implemented, and so travelers arriving from non-EU countries may need to use another digital health pass—as long as it is EC-approved—or rely on paper copies of their vaccination, test result and COVID-19 recovery certificates.

²³ [European Commission](#) – EU Digital COVID Certificate Q&A

²⁴ [Schengen Visa Info](#), June 8, 2021

Singapore

The Singapore Government has launched **Notarise**, a digital health pass portal where outbound travelers can upload their Pre-Departure Test (PDT) **HealthCerts** for digital authentication and endorsement by the Ministry of Health (MOH) or be issued their Vaccination HealthCerts for travel.²⁵ Such digital certificates should be easier for travelers to share for inspection and verification by local and overseas border authorities. Singapore is engaging with other countries to accept the HealthCerts.

U.K.

In the U.K. the functionality of the National Health Service NHS App has been expanded to include vaccine pass capabilities. The app now generates a QR code confirming an individual's vaccination status. The code is valid for more month when it will need to be regenerated. The NHS App is already being used to enable access to certain events, but it has yet to receive widespread mandate.

INTEROPERABILITY

Interoperability doesn't just require different digital health passes to be able to interact; it also requires airline competitors and other organizations to work together. British Airways, Virgin Atlantic and Heathrow Airport are demonstrating how this could work. The two U.K. airlines started a trial in July 2021 enabling fully-vaccinated passengers on certain routes to upload their vaccination status prior to departure and use a dedicated fast-track arrivals lane on return Heathrow.



²⁵ [Notarise](#)

SUMMARY

It's now been more than a year since the concept of a digital health pass started to capture the imagination of the travel industry. The adoption and widespread roll-out of the passes and apps are perhaps taking longer than had originally been expected, but arguably, the pandemic is also taking longer to play out than many of us had hoped. And with much progress still required on raising global vaccination levels, it may be some time before everyone around the world will have the same freedoms they enjoyed when traveling before the pandemic.

As the situation continues to evolve, digital health pass developers will need to ensure their solutions are sufficiently agile and flexible to accommodate the evolution and complexities of travel restrictions. For now, digital health passes retain their key role as a travel enabler.

So far, the approach to digital health passes appears fragmented, with multinational organizations, governments and airlines all seemingly pursuing their own solutions. When planning a trip, travelers can find out what digital health pass their airline is using in the Airport & Travel Supplier Policies section of our [COVID-19 Information Hub](#).

Share your thoughts

Do you have questions or comments regarding this report? Please email [Mike Eggleton](#) or [Jorge Mesa](#) to share your thoughts.



Mike Eggleton
Director
Research and Intelligence



Jorge Mesa
Director
Global Crisis Management

About BCD Travel

BCD Travel helps companies make the most of what they spend on travel. We give travelers innovative tools that keep them safe and productive and help them make good choices on the road. We partner with travel and procurement leaders to simplify the complexities of business travel, drive savings and satisfaction, and move whole companies toward their goals. In short, we help our clients travel smart and achieve more. We make this happen in 109 countries with a global client retention rate of 98%, the highest in the industry. For more information, visit www.bcdtravel.com.



We have carefully researched and checked the information contained. However, we do not guarantee or warrant the correctness, completeness or topicality of this article and do not accept any liability for any damage or loss as a result of the use of the information contained in this article.