
EU DIGITAL COVID CERTIFICATE AND OTHER CERTIFICATES

What is a EU Digital COVID Certificate?

On 17 March 2021, the European Commission adopted a legislative proposal establishing a common framework for a EU Digital COVID Certificate covering vaccination, testing and recovery. It is an EU-wide approach to the issuing, verification and acceptance of certificates facilitating free movement within the EU, based on strict respect for non-discrimination and the fundamental rights of EU citizens.

The DGC is a digital proof that a person:

- has been vaccinated against COVID-19, or
- a SARSCoV2 diagnostic test has been performed with a negative result, or
- has recovered from COVID-19

The key features of the certificate are: digital or paper format, with QR code, issued free of charge in the national language and English, safe and secure, valid in all EU countries.

For more information you can consult the [European Union \(EU\) website](#).

COVID-19 certificates of vaccination, diagnostic tests or recovery **issued by countries with which the EU has established equivalence will have the same status as an EU Digital COVID Certificate**. These countries can be consulted on the [European Union \(EU\) website](#).

How will citizens get the certificate?

National authorities are responsible for issuing the certificate. It may be issued, for example, by hospitals, testing centres or health authorities.

The digital version can be stored on a mobile device. Citizens can also request a paper version. Both will have a QR code containing essential information, as well as a digital seal to ensure that the certificate is authentic.

If I don't have a EU Digital COVID Certificate, can I still travel to Spain, with the origin of my trip being a risk country/area of the European Union or a third country?

In the case of **third-country nationals**, if they meet the [entry requirements of the Ministry of the Interior](#), set out in Order INT/657/2020 of 17 July, they may travel by presenting a document accrediting/certificate of vaccination against COVID-19, a negative diagnostic test or a certificate of recovery against COVID-19, in accordance with the provisions of the current legislation on health checks to be carried out at the points of entry into Spain.

If you are **travelling to Spain under point (k) of that Order**, you can only do so if you have a **valid certificate of recovery or vaccination** with an EMA/WHO authorized vaccine, including people resident in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland coming directly from this country.

People aged 12 years or older and under 18 years can submit a **negative SARS-CoV-2** molecular nucleic acid amplification test **-NAAT (RT-PCR or similar)-** performed **72 hours** prior to arrival.

Children under the age of 12 years are exempt from submitting these certificates, but not from completing the Health Control Form and obtaining a QR code.

In the case of **European Union citizens, these types of certificates may continue to be presented** until the use of the EU Digital COVID Certificate becomes compulsory.

What certificate or documentary proof will they require from me on my arrival in Spain, if I come from a risk country/area?

If you come from a country/area considered of **RISK**, you must bring with you one of the supporting certificates/documents listed below:

- A. EU Digital COVID Certificate** issued by a member state of the European Union. It may contain one or more of the following documents proving that a person:
- has been vaccinated against COVID-19
 - a diagnostic test with negative result:
 - NAAT (nucleic acid amplification test, e.g. RT-PCR, RT-LAMP, TMA), with sampling within the previous 72 hours to arrival in Spain.

- RAT (rapid antigen test) with sampling within the previous 24 hours to arrival in Spain. To consult the list of rapid tests approved by the European Commission, click [here](#).
- has recovered from COVID-19, after having had the disease.

B. NON-EU CERTIFICATE, THIRD COUNTRIES: this is any of the supporting documents listed above, but issued by non-EU countries, in a format readable by airport health control staff.

If you come from a **HIGH RISK** country/territory, in order to pass the health controls on arrival in Spain, you will have to present your SpTH QR code together with a certificate of vaccination or recovery, and also a certificate of diagnostic test for active SARS-CoV-2 infection (AIDT), with a negative result.

Who has to present a documentary proof or certificate to enter Spain?

All those passengers who come from a SARS-CoV-2 country/area considered of risk or high risk, must present one of the certificates or supporting documents mentioned above. Children under 12 years of age are not required to present these documents.

The list of risk and high risk countries/zones and more information can be seen at the following [link](#) and will be regularly updated. This requirement applies to air and sea transport. For more information see the following [Ministry of Health link](#).

Do I have to travel with the certificate or document proving vaccination against COVID-19/diagnostic test/ recovery of COVID-19 to enter Spain?

As part of the documentary control carried out at the points of entry, passengers may be asked, at any time, for proof of vaccination/diagnostic test/recovery of COVID-19.

This certificate or supporting document (vaccination, diagnostic test, recovery) must be the original; it must be written in Spanish, English, French or German and may be submitted in paper or electronic format. Any such document shall contain at least the following information: traveller's name and surname, personal identification number used to obtain SpTH QR. In addition:

- In the case of **documentary evidence of vaccination**: date of complete vaccination, vaccine administered and country where vaccinated.

- If the **document accredits a diagnostic test**: date the sample was taken, identification and contact details of the center performing the analysis, technique used and negative result.

-The **certificate proving recovery** must state the date of the first positive test, and indicate that the passenger has passed the disease and is not currently infectious-contagious, and the country where the certificate was issued. Passengers with a Recovery Certificate other than an EU Digital COVID Certificate or equivalent must also provide documentary proof of the diagnostic test from which the Recovery Certificate is derived

If you come from a [HIGH RISK](#) country/territory, in order to pass the health controls on arrival in Spain, you will have to present your SpTH QR code together with a certificate of vaccination or recovery, and also a certificate of diagnostic test for active SARS-CoV-2 infection (AIDT), with a negative result.

If it is not possible to obtain it in these languages, it must be accompanied by a translation into Spanish carried out by an official body.

What vaccinations against COVID-19 are allowed to be able to enter Spain?

Any vaccine authorized for marketing by the [European Union \(European Medicines Agency, EMA\)](#) and [WHO](#) will be accepted. In the case of certificates with vaccines not authorised by these agencies, the last dose administered must be of one of the authorised vaccines.

What COVID-19 diagnostic tests are accepted for entry into Spain?

2 types of tests are allowed, with negative result:

- Nucleic acid amplification tests (NAAT), which detect the genetic material of the virus (e.g.: RT-PCR, RT-LAMP, TMA, HAD, NEAR, CRISPR, SDA).
- Rapid antigen detection tests (RATs), which detect the presence of virus antigens. The tests accepted are those authorised by the European Commission, which can be consulted at the following [link](#).

These tests must have been carried out (taking of the sample) 72h(NAAT)/24h(RAT) before arrival in Spain.

What validity do my Certificates/documents certifying vaccination, recovery and/or diagnostic tests have?

- ✓ **Vaccination Certificate:**
 - From 1 February 2022, this will be valid from 14 days after the date of administration of the last dose of the complete vaccination schedule and will be valid up to 270 days from the date of administration of that last dose.
 - Thereafter, in order to be valid, the vaccination certificate must reflect the administration of a booster dose. These certificates will be considered valid since the day the booster dose was administered.
- ✓ **Certificate of Diagnostic Test:** valid certificate if the sample has been taken within 72 hours prior to arrival in Spain, for NAAT tests, and 24 hours for RAT tests.
- ✓ **Certificate of Recovery:** Recovery certificates issued **at least 11 days after the first positive NAAT or RAT**, and up to a **maximum of 180 days** after the date of sampling, are accepted as valid. The RATs accepted are those authorised by the European Commission, which can be consulted at the following [link](#), and must have been performed by healthcare professionals **after October 1, 2021**. Passengers with a Recovery Certificate other than an EU Digital COVID Certificate or equivalent must also provide documentary proof of the diagnostic test from which the Recovery Certificate is derived.

If you do not comply with any of the above data, you cannot obtain your QR.

If I arrive in Spain in transit, with another country as my final destination, am I obliged to present one of these certificates or supporting documents on arrival in Spain?

If the transit in Spain is carried out without leaving the international zone, you will not be required to present a certificate. If the transit involves passing through the border control centres and therefore entering Spanish territory, you must present your TRANSIT QR, boarding card or ticket for the next flight or connection flights to prove that the final destination is international, and you may continue your journey, provided that the transit lasts less than 24 hours and you do not leave the airport premises.

Can I be checked for documentary proof of vaccination, diagnostic test or COVID-19 recovery at the airport of origin?

To allow passengers to board to Spain, airlines, at the airport of origin, will check that passengers have the QR code generated through the website spth.gob.es, or the Spain Travel Health -SpTH application and if they come from a risk or high risk country/area they may be asked to show the document certifying vaccination, diagnostic test or recovery of COVID-19, which has been used to obtain the QR code.

If I am vaccinated against COVID-19, can I use my vaccination certificate when I arrive in Spain?

You can now present your COVID-19 vaccination document as part, or not, of a EU Digital COVID Certificate or EU equivalent, as long as you meet the above requirements. To the extent possible, the use of the EU Digital COVID Certificate or EU equivalent should be prioritised.

Even though I have one of these certificates, is it possible that I will have to undergo a diagnostic test on my arrival in Spain?

Yes, it is possible that, on arrival, after passing the health control, the health authority may determine that you must undergo a diagnostic test on arrival in Spain.