
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 in charge of issuing the certificate. It could, for example, be issued by test centers 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.

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 certificate of being fully vaccinated with an EMA/OMS authorized vaccine, and the last dose was administered more than 14 days ago**. In the case of people **resident in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland coming directly from this country**, in addition to the vaccination certificate, **diagnostic certificates of NAAT tests** (nucleic acid amplification tests, e.g.: RT-PCR, RT-LAMP, TMA, HAD, NEAR, CRISPR, SDA) will also be considered valid.

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?

Where a country/area considered to be at risk is concerned, it must carry one of the certificates/supporting documents issued by countries outside the European Union, in a format readable by port/arrival airport health control staff and following the specifications set out in the Resolution of the Director-General for Public Health (pending). Certificates must be in English, French, German or Spanish. If it is not possible to obtain it in these languages, the accreditation document must be accompanied by a translation into Spanish, made by an official body. These certificates are:

- ✓ vaccination against COVID-19. Valid from 14 days after receiving the complete regimen.
- ✓ SARSCoV2 diagnostic test with negative result. The following diagnostic tests shall be admissible:
 - **NAAT-** nucleic acid amplification tests (e.g.: RT-PCR, RT-LAMP, TMA, HAD, NEAR, CRISPR, SDA), with sampling within the previous **72 hours to arrival in Spain**.
 - **RAT-**rapid antigen test, with sampling within the previous **48 hours to arrival in Spain**. You can consult the list of rapid tests approved by the European Commission click [here](#)

- ✓ COVID-19 recovery (from day 11 after first positive diagnostic test to day 180)

Who has to have proof of vaccination, diagnostic test or certificate of recovery?

From 7 June 2021, all those passengers from a country/area that has a SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus risk, must present, a certificate or document certifying vaccination against COVID-19 or a negative certificate of a Diagnostic Test of Active Infection or a certificate of Recovery after having passed this disease in order to enter Spain. This can be a Green Digital Certificate (GDC), in the case of the EU, or a supporting document of those indicated above, whether the traveler arrives from an EU member state or from a third country. Children under 12 years of age are not required to present these certificates or supporting documents.

The list of risk countries/areas can be seen on this link [RISK COUNTRIES/AREAS](#).

This list of affected countries/areas will be updated regularly. This requirement applies to air and sea travel. For more information, please consult the following [link of the Ministry of Health](#)

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.

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. The complete vaccination schedule must be available for the vaccination certificate to be valid. Complete vaccination schedules are defined as those established in the [COVID-19 vaccination Strategy in Spain](#).

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)/48h(RAT) before arrival in Spain.

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

- ✓ **Vaccination Certificate:** Valid from 14 days after the complete vaccination schedule.
- ✓ **Certificate of Diagnostic Tests:** valid certificate if the sample has been taken within 72 hours prior to arrival in Spain, for NAAT tests, and 48 hours for RAT tests.
- ✓ **Certificate of Recovery:** corresponds to a test no more than 180 days after the date of the first positive NAAT test result and no earlier than the 11th day following the date of that positive test result.

If any data is outside the aforementioned ranges, you will not be able to obtain the QR, essential to travel to Spain.

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 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 complete COVID-19 vaccination document as part, or not, of a EU Digital COVID Certificate.

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. Exceptionally, certain passengers may be required to undergo a diagnostic test for active infection for COVID-19 **within 48 hours of arrival**, the result of which must be communicated to the Foreign Health Services through the channel indicated for this purpose.