EU DIGITAL COVID CERTIFICATE AND OTHER CERTIFICATES

What is an 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 obtain the EU Digital COVID Certificate?

The national authorities are responsible for issuing the certificate. This may be issued, for example, by hospitals, diagnostic testing centers 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 that will contain essential information, as well as a digital seal to ensure that the certificate is authentic.

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

Passengers arriving in Spain by AIR from countries that **DO NOT belong to the European Union or are NOT considered Schengen associated countries**, must have a valid certificate of vaccination, diagnostic test or recovery.

<u>Passengers in international transit and children under 12 years of age are exempt from this obligation.</u>

What certificate or documentary evidence will you require upon my arrival in Spain?

Passengers arriving in Spain by AIR from countries that **DO NOT belong to the European Union or are NOT considered Schengen associated countries**, must have one of these documents:

A. **EU DIGITAL COVID CERTIFICATE**, issued by a member state of the European Union, or an **EU EQUIVALENT CERTIFICATE,** issued by countries with which the EU has established equivalence (you can consult them on the EU website). It may contain one or more of the following supporting documents that a person:

- has been vaccinated against COVID-19

- A diagnostic test has been performed with a negative result:

    o NAAT (nucleic acid amplification tests, eg: RT-PCR, RT-LAMP, TMA).

    o RAT (rapid antigen test)]. To consult the list of rapid tests approved by the European Commission, click **here**.

- has recovered from COVID-19, after having passed the disease

In the event that you have this type of certificate, you must present it at the time of boarding and upon arrival at the health controls in Spain, and you do not need to fill in the SpTH health control form.

B. **NON-EU CERTIFICATE, THIRD COUNTRIES**: This is any of the supporting documents listed above, but issued by countries that do not belong to the European Union (or those with which the EU has established equivalence), in a format that can be read by the staff of the

airport health check. The certificates must be written in Spanish, English, French or German. In the event that it is not possible to obtain it in these languages, the supporting document must be accompanied by a translation into Spanish, carried out by an official body.

Passengers with this certificates who arrives in Spain by air must also complete a **health control form before departure** through the website www.spth.gob.es or the **Spain Travel Health (SpTH) application)**, available on Android, iOS and Huawei.

The application will generate an individualized QR code that the traveler must present to the transport company before boarding, as well as during the health controls upon arrival in Spain when required, along with the documents that prove the veracity of the information entered in SpTH during the process of obtaining the QR code.

Do I have to travel with the certificate or document that proves the vaccination against COVID-19/diagnostic test/recovery from 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 the event that 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.

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

What vaccines against COVID-19 are allowed to enter Spain?

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

What diagnostic tests for COVID-19 are admitted to enter Spain?

2 types of tests are allowed, with a negative result:

✓ Nucleic acid amplification tests (NAATs), which detect the genetic material of the virus.

✓ Rapid antigen detection tests (RATs), which detect the presence of virus antigens. The accepted tests are those authorized by the European Commission, which can be consulted at the following **link.**

These tests must have been carried out (sample collection) in the **72h (NAAT)/24h (RAT)** prior to departure to Spain.

How valid are my Certificates/documents accrediting vaccination, recovery and/or diagnostic tests?

✓ **Vaccination Certificate**:

o 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.

The vaccination certificate with complete schedule for children **under 18 has no expiry date**.

o 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.

Any vaccine authorized by the European Medicines Agency or by the World Health Organization will be accepted**.** Certificates with vaccines not authorized by these organisms are also accepted, but the last dose administered must be one of the authorized vaccines. Complete vaccination guidelines are defined as those established in the **Vaccination strategy against COVID- 19 in Spain** .

✓ **Certificate of Diagnostic Test**: valid certificate if the sample has been taken within 72 hours prior to departure to Spain, for NAAT tests, and 24 hours for RAT tests.

✓ **Recovery Certificate:** 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. 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 I arrive in Spain in transit with another country as my final destination, do I have to present one of these certificates or supporting documents upon arrival in Spain?

No, as long as the transit lasts less than 24 hours and does not leave the international zone.

Can it be verified that I have documentary proof of vaccination, diagnostic test or recovery from COVID-19 at the airport of origin?

To allow the boarding of passengers to Spain from countries that **DO NOT belong to the European Union or are NOT considered Schengen associated countries**, the airlines, at the airport of origin, will check that they have the required documentation. In case you have

an EU CCD/EU Equivalent, no additional documentation will be required. If you do not have an EU CCD/EU Equivalent, you must present the SpTH QR and you may be asked to show the document proving the COVID-19 vaccination, diagnostic test or recovery that you used to obtain the QR code.

Despite being in possession of any of these certificates, is it possible that I will have to undergo a diagnostic test upon my arrival in Spain?

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