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.

What certificate or documentary evidence will I be required upon arrival in Spain if I am a third country national traveling from a country outside the European Union or Schengen associated country, in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic?

Third country national Passengers arriving in Spain 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 Antigen tests. To consult the list of antigen tests approved by the European Commission, click **here**.

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

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.

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.

✓ Antigen tests, 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 (antigen tests)** 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 antigen tests.

✓ **Recovery Certificate:** Recovery certificates issued **at least 11 days after the first positive NAAT or antigen tests**, and up to a **maximum of 180 days** after the date of sampling, are accepted as valid. The antigen tests 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.