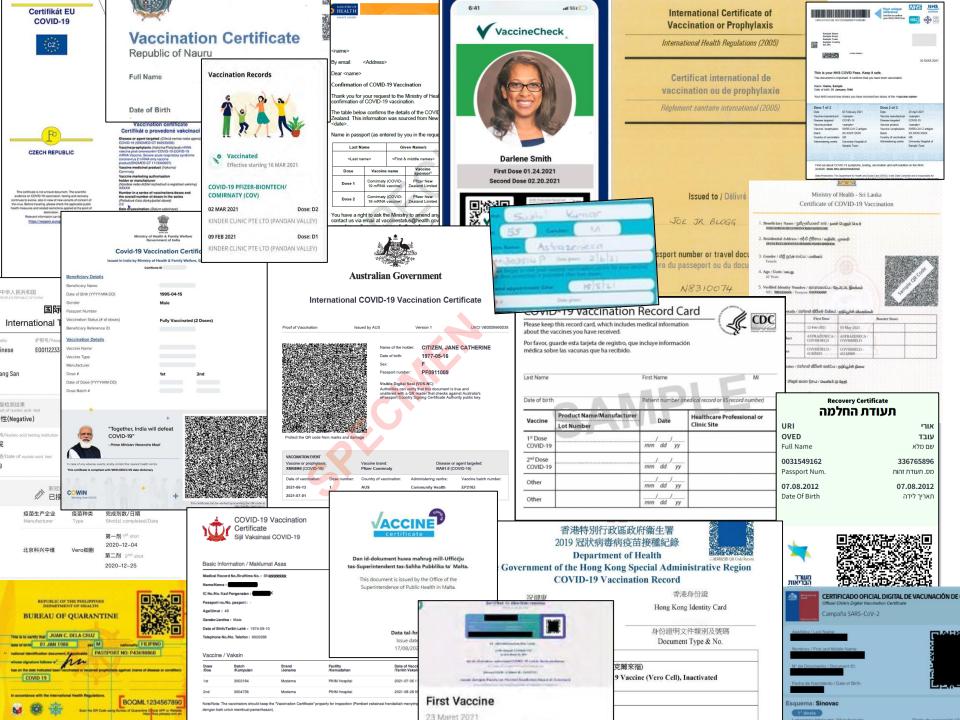
FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

Australia's International COVID-19 Vaccination Certificate

using Visible Digital Seal Technology

November 2021

Australian Passport Office presentation



Truly open world travel will require global interoperability of vaccination certificates rather than a complex and fragmented system of mutual recognition

- This is one of the reasons Australia adopted the Visible Digital Seal (VDS) standard specified by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) – the body responsible for setting standards for international travel documents
- Encourage other countries also to apply the ICAO-VDS standard
- And in the short term work to ensure interoperability between current formats and the ICAO-VDS standard
- Australia is happy to work with other countries in this endeavour.

The Australian International COVID-19 Vaccination Certificate (ICVC)

- The certificate meets the global standard specified by the ICAO and endorsed by the WHO.
- The certificate uses Visible Digital Seal (VDS) technology in the form of a QR code that is secure as a passport chip and can be digitally authenticated in the same way as a passport.
- The QR code can be read at borders globally and by travel apps such as the IATA TravelPass that many airlines use.



Australian Government

International COVID-19 Vaccination Certificate

Proof of Vaccination Issued by AUS Version 1 UVCI VB0009990038

Name of the holder: CITIZEN, JANE CATHERINE
Date of birth: 1977-05-16
Sex: F
Passport number: PF0911009

Visible Digital Seal (VDS-NC)
Authorities can verify that this document is true and unaltered with a QR reader that checks against Australia's ePassport Country Signing Certificate Authority public key.

VACCINATION EVENT Vaccine or prophylaxis: XM68M6 (COVID-19)		Vaccine brand: Pfizer Comirnaty	Disease or agent targeted: RA01.0 (COVID-19)	
Date of vaccination:	Dose number:	Country of vaccination:	Administering centre:	Vaccine batch number:
2021-06-13	1	AUS	Community Health	EP2163
2021-07-01	2	AUS	General Practitioner	ER7449

This document bears a Visible Digital Seal for a Non-Constrained Environment (VDS-NC), as specified by the International Civil Aviation Organization. UVCl means 'Unique Vaccination Certificate Identifier', XM68M6 and RA01.0 are World Health Organization codes for COVID-19.



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Protect the QR code from marks and damage

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Date of vaccination: Dose number:	Country of vaccination:	Administering centre:	Vaccine batch number:
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2021-07-01 2	AUS	General Practitioner	ER7449

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What's in the certificate?

- the Australian Government crest
- the title: "International COVID-19 Vaccination Certificate"
- a header row containing:
- the words "Proof of Vaccination"
- the issuing state ("AUS")
- the version number ("1")
- a Unique Vaccination Certificate Identifier (UVCI)
- the VDS QR code, containing all the data elements, as well as signature information for authenticating the certificate
- the holder's name
- date of birth, in the format YYYY-MM-DD
- gender ('Sex'), given as "M", "F" or "X"
- the holder's passport number
- vaccination history, which includes the brand, date, batch number, administering centre and country of each dose
- the manufacturer name is included in the vaccine brand name
- the "Dose number" is in chronological order across Vaccination events

WHAT'S IN A VDS QR CODE?



Australian Government

International COVID-19 Vaccination Certificate

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This is what a QR reader sees



{"data":{"hdr":{"is":"AUS","t":"icao.vacc","v":1},"msg":{"pid":{"dob":"1977-05-

16","i":"PF0911009","n":"CITIZEN JANE

CATHERINE", "sex": "F"}, "uvci": "VB0009990038", "ve": [{"des": "XM68M6", "dis": "RA01.0 ","nam":"Pfizer Comirnaty","vd":[{"adm":"Community

Health", "ctr": "AUS", "dvc": "2021-06-13", "lot": "EP2163", "seq": 1}, {"adm": "General Practitioner", "ctr": "AUS", "dvc": "2021-07-

01","lot":"ER7449","seq":2}]}]}},"sig":{"alg":"ES256",

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T58eYQjQhbsXV-BxJ2kSspdvkUF6-arLHh6DVS3ATPAGIm6f

EvF4AxnLq5OSHOC3zZR0SR9XntYxEwjo bW8O0Se8qa5mlBp

Xmvlwh0lj6sqVwEskvkM30GmQGfZh5VjFujN2AZnwpjOjK0R-JvR3u6jsBJqVMgm75H gezOzayNiaqzhitrgg5KpO3gK_j3C-Doj5iPAm7I_63GyjUi8ZnqVUZ37UxM

19uX2SvhTTQ70nL-zHNfHOyBXJgzMi4Zkor2uagHPz-W1XvNVwGEfFAu-

nEylOKBndHwnvSomL54yBv83X2yAQsoYggU18LNXMH

UonTJ_ug7FU0LEX3qA1TeARJ4WBFNjysrBXQepVLowcbtvrhLFjocHjmCp3z17xUoKGI6d aajCbvedXgeeSWSD5CuMAXpdN3Yml7VdW7PCK4DD0E raw6d wKNGSYAh0TBpNLxn unquai-gFIjgf4iRoys5F35KwmvpZw==",

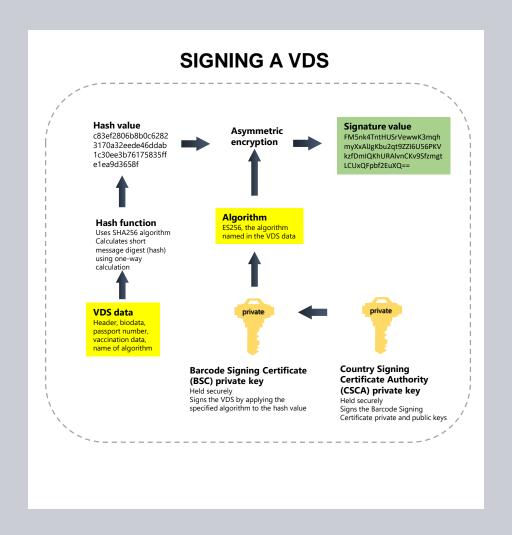
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VDS data

Header, biodata, passport number. vaccination data and the name of an algorithm ("sig")

Compressed **Barcode Signing** Certificate (BSC) - includes public key and link to **Country Signing** Certificate **Authority** (CSCA) public key

Signature value



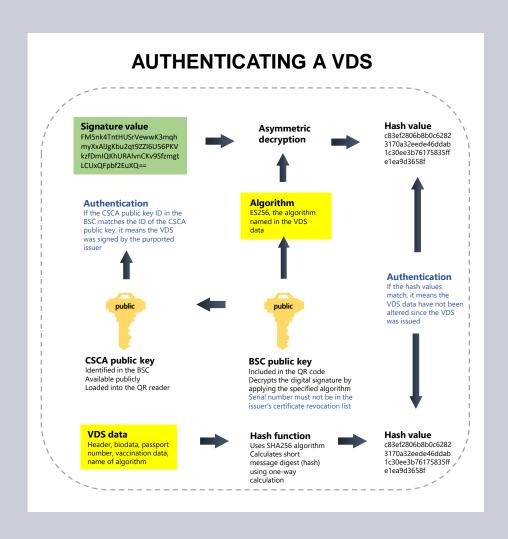
AUTHENTICATING A VDS

-Check data hasn't changed

If the hash values match, it means the VDS data have not been altered since the VDS was issued

- Check the certificate was issued by the purported issuer

If the CSCA public key ID in the BSC matches the ID of the CSCA public key, it means the VDS was signed by the purported issuer



Existing passport readers can read and authenticate ICVCs with minor software updates. Australia is working with vendors to implement these updates.

For border authorities or others seeking to read ICVCs without passport readers the Australian Passport Office has developed a smartphone app.

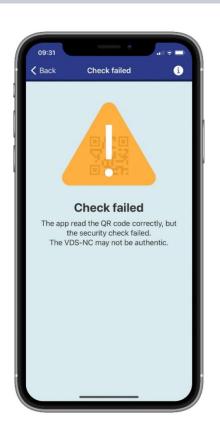
The VDS-NC Checker app is available in the Apple app store and Google Play





The app confirms that a VDS is genuine and displays the most important information from the certificate, including the holder's biodata and COVID-19 immunisations.

If the QR code is not authentic the app displays a message to that effect:



About the app

Does the app tell me if a person is fully vaccinated?

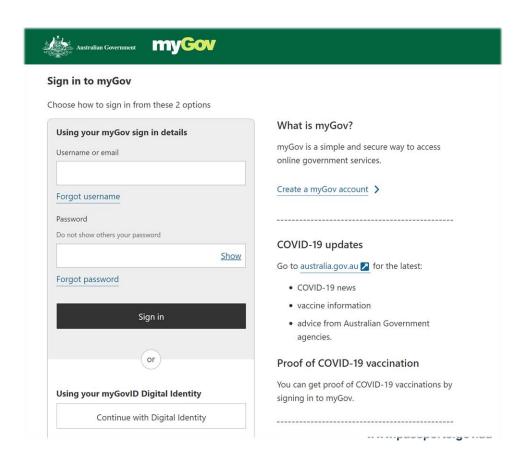
No, it shows the vaccination history. That's how the VDS standard is meant to work. It leaves decisions in the hands of inspecting authorities in the **receiving** state, not the **issuing** state.

What about privacy?

The app has very strong privacy restrictions. It collects no personal information – there's no login or password. And the app doesn't store or transmit any of the information it reads from ICVCs.

Requesting an ICVC

Requesting an international certificate is easy and free through <u>myGov</u>, the <u>Medicare Express Plus app</u>, or by contacting Services Australia.





As part of Australia's National Transition Plan, Australia's international border commenced reopening at the start of November. Inbound passenger limits were removed for vaccinated Australians and are being progressively lifted for non-Australians.



≥80% vaccination

(2 doses)

National Plan to transition Australia's National COVID-19 Response

National Cabinet agreed to formulate a national plan to transition Australia's National COVID-19 Response from its current pre vaccination settings, focussing on continued suppression of community transmission, to post vaccination settings focussed on prevention of serious illness, hospitalisation and fatality, and the public health management of other infectious diseases

Phases triggered in a jurisdiction when the average vaccination rates across the nation have reached the threshold and that rate is achieved in a jurisdiction expressed as a percentage of the eligible population (16+), based on the scientific modelling conducted for the COVID-19 Risk Analysis and Response Task Force

(2 doses)

~70% vaccination

B. Vaccination Transition Phase hospitalisation and fatality as a result of

Seek to minimise serious illness,

COVID-19 with low level restrictions

C. Vaccination Consolidation **Phase** Seek to minimise serious illness,

hospitalisations and fatalities as a result of COVID-19 with baseline restrictions infectious diseases

A. Current Phase: Vaccinate, Prepare and Pilot*

Continue to strongly suppress the virus for the purpose of minimising community transmission

Measures may include:

- Accelerate vaccination rates
- Close international borders to keep COVID-19 out
- Early, stringent and short lockdowns if outbreaks occur
- Minimise cases in the community through effective test, trace and isolate capabilities
- Implement the national vaccination plan to offer every Australian an opportunity to be vaccinated with the necessary doses of the relevant vaccine as soon as possible:
- Inbound passenger caps temporarily reduced
- Domestic travel restrictions directly proportionate to lockdown requirements
- Commonwealth to facilitate increased commercial flights to increase international repatriations to Darwin for quarantine at the Centre for National Resilience in
- International Freight Assistance Mechanism extended
- Trial and pilot the introduction of alternative guarantine options, including home quarantine for returning vaccinated travellers:
- · Expand commercial trials for limited entry of student and economic visa holders
- · Recognise and adopt the existing digital Medicare Vaccination Certificate (automatically generated for every vaccination registered on AIR);
- · Establish digital vaccination authentication at international borders:
- Prepare vaccine booster programme; and
- Undertake a further review of the national hotel quarantine network

Measures may include:

- Maintain high vaccination rates, encouraging uptake through incentives and other measures
- Minimise cases in the community through ongoing low-level restrictions and effective track and trace
- Lockdowns less likely but possible
- International border caps and low-level international arrivals, with safe and proportionate quarantine to minimise the risk of COVID entering
- · Ease restrictions on vaccinated residents (TBD)
- Restore inbound passenger caps at previous levels for unvaccinated returning travellers and larger caps for vaccinated returning travellers;
- Allow capped entry of student and economic visa holders subject to quarantine arrangements and availability;
- Introduce new reduced guarantine arrangements for vaccinated residents; and
- Prepare/implement vaccine booster programme (depending on timing).

Measures may include:

- Maximise vaccination coverage
- · Minimum ongoing baseline restrictions, adjusted to minimise cases without lockdowns
- · Highly targeted lockdowns only
- Continue vaccine booster programme;
- · Exempt vaccinated residents from all domestic
- · Abolish caps on returning vaccinated Australians
- · Allow increased capped entry of student, economic, and humanitarian visa holders;
- · Lift all restrictions on outbound travel for vaccinated Australians; and
- Extend travel bubble for unrestricted travel to new candidate countries (Singapore, Pacific)
- Gradual reopening of inward and outward international travel with safe countries and proportionate quarantine and reduced requirements for fully vaccinated inbound

D. Final **Post-Vaccination Phase**

Manage COVID-19 consistent with public health management of other

Measures may include:

- Open international borders
- Quarantine for high-risk inbound travel
- Minimise cases in the community without ongoing restrictions or lockdowns
- Live with COVID-19: management consistent with influenza or other infectious diseases
- Boosters as necessary
- Allow uncapped inbound arrivals for all vaccinated persons, without quarantine;
- Allow uncapped arrivals of non-vaccinated travellers subject to pre-flight and on arrival

*No jurisdiction required to increase restrictions beyond current settings The Plan is based on the current situation and is subject to change if required

The COVID-19 Risk Analysis and Response Taskforce's report will be available once finalised at: pmc.gov.au.

Passengers travelling to Australia provide their International COVID-19 Vaccination Certificate to prove their status as fully vaccinated.

- Travellers vaccinated overseas who travel to Australia present a <u>foreign-issued vaccination</u> certificate.
- Most foreign vaccination certificate formats are acceptable.
- Certificates need to be in English or accompanied by a certified translation.
- Travellers have to have received vaccines approved or recognised by Australia's Therapeutic Goods Administration.
- Paper and digital certificates are equally acceptable
- As are handwritten certificates
- This is possible due to Australia's high vaccination rate
- Australia is accepting foreign certificates unilaterally, based on criteria that are universal, not country-specific
- Truly open world travel will require global interoperability of vaccination certificates rather than a fragmented system of mutual recognition

Get in touch:

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AUSTRALIAN
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