

KEY QUESTION & ANSWERS

Canadian COVID-19 proof of vaccination

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Information Canadians will want to know about the Canadian COVID-19 proof of vaccination

1. What is a COVID-19 proof of vaccination?

A: A COVID-19 proof of vaccination is a document (paper or digital) that contains information about a person's COVID-19 vaccination history. The document allows businesses (venue operators, restaurants, etc.), transportation companies (airlines, trains, and ferries) and governments (foreign or domestic border authorities) to assess the person's vaccination data in the document against the COVID-19 public health measures in place. This will allow them to determine if a person should be allowed access to a facility, travel in a train or airplane, or in the case of border authorities whether the traveler would be required to undergo quarantine, testing, or other public health measures.

2. What is the standardized proof of vaccination document that the federal government has been working on with provinces and territories?

A: The document is often referred to as a "Canadian" proof of vaccination because the provinces and territories worked with the federal government to establish a standardized document with a common look and feel and will contain the same information, including the Canadian flag on the upper right corner.

The data included in the Canadian PVC includes a person's COVID-19 vaccination history, such as the number of doses, vaccine type(s), and date and place where doses were administered. Because the new COVID-19 Proof of Vaccination is standardized, it will help both foreign and Canadian border officials to recognize it as a reliable Canadian document and to assess whether a traveller meets a country's health and entry requirements. The document does not confirm whether you meet the definition of "fully vaccinated" since this is determined by the business or country requesting a proof of vaccination.

3. Q. How can I tell the difference between the document that is used within my province and the one that I can use outside the province and internationally?

A: The new Canadian PVC has a Canada flag on the upper right hand corner. This is a visual representation of the Canadian PVC.

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4. What information is contained on the Canadian COVID-19 Proof of Vaccination?

A: Canada's Proof of Vaccination has information about the COVID-19 vaccinations someone received, including the following:

- Given name, family name, date of birth, type of vaccine, vaccination date (for each dose), vaccine lot number, total number of vaccines administered, issuing province or territory (where applicable), location of vaccination, manufacturer and country of issuance

The COVID-19 Proof of Vaccination also contains a barcode called a QR Code. In addition to a digital signature, the QR code has the same information as seen in the plain text (above). The QR code enables your proof of vaccination to be scanned and easily read and ensure it is authentic.

5. Will I be able to get a paper copy of a COVID-19 proof of vaccination if I don't have an electronic device (i.e., smartphone, mobile device, laptop etc.)?

A: Yes the COVID-19 proof of vaccination will be available in paper format. While it will be primarily issued in a digital format, storable in digital wallets in the majority of mobile devices, they are also available in paper format where necessary.

There are a variety of client support options available through the provinces and territories, including online services, call centres and/or in-person services to assist people in accessing a paper copy of their Proof of Vaccination. More information on which kinds of client support services are available from each province and territory.

6. How secure is the data/personal information stored in my Canadian COVID-19 proof of vaccination?

A: Safeguards have been built into the design, policies, procedures and technical systems to protect the privacy of Canadians. Provinces, territories and Indigenous organizations are and will remain the custodians of Canadian's health data.

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Whether a border official or business is reading the document or the QR code, they only see the holder's name, date of birth and COVID-19 vaccination history. It does not have the person's health card number or other health information.

7. Q. I already have proof of vaccination. Do I need to get a new one if I want to travel internationally?

A: The Canadian COVID-19 Proof of Vaccination was developed to facilitate international travel. If your proof of vaccination has the Canada flag on it, you do not need to obtain a new one at this time.

If your province or territory has not started issuing the COVID-19 Proof of Vaccination, with the Canada wordmark, you may still travel with the non-standardized proof issued to you by your province/territory. The new COVID-19 Proof of Vaccination document is not a mandatory document for international travel, however, it may facilitate travel and ease the traveller experience since the document will be more easily recognized as issued by Canadian authorities (provinces and territories).

Travellers should always check the Government of Canada's travel advice and advisories, as well as the entry and public health requirements of their destination country, before booking their trip.

Obtaining your COVID-19 Proof of Vaccination

What Canadians need to know about getting their proof of vaccination

8. Where do I get a Canadian COVID-19 proof of vaccination?

A. Many provinces and territories have started issuing the COVID-19 proof of vaccination and we anticipate that all provinces and territories will be issuing the standardized COVID-19 proof of vaccination by the end of October 2021.

9. Q: If I was vaccinated overseas, how do I go to get my proof of vaccination?

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A: In most cases, if someone was vaccinated outside of the province or territory, or outside of Canada, they can register their vaccination records with their province or territory of residence. For more details about how to register your out-of-province vaccination record(s), [please contact your province or territory](#).

10. Q: Can I request a COVID-19 proof of vaccination for someone else?

A: Many provinces and territories have processes in place whereby, if you are authorized to do so, you may be able to apply on behalf of someone else (i.e. child or dependent).

11. Q. I cannot get vaccinated/obtain the COVID-19 proof of vaccination due to health and or religious reasons; what can I do?

A: You must check the country of destination requirements. You may be able to travel however you may need to prove negative COVID-19 test results, recovery from the virus or be subject to the country's quarantine and testing requirements upon arrival.

Those who are unable to get vaccinated are encouraged to check the rules of their destination country. They may be able to bring other documentation regarding the medical reason for their inability to be vaccinated (e.g. a doctor's note). However, any exemptions to public health requirements are determined by the destination country.

12. Q: How do I correct information that appears incorrectly on my proof of vaccination?

A: If there is an error on your COVID-19 proof of vaccination, you will need to contact the province or territory that issued it to you.

Using It

What Canadians need to know about using their proof of vaccination

13. Will I have to provide additional information along with the proof of vaccination?

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A: When presenting your COVID-19 proof of vaccination, you will also be required to present a valid supporting identity document that includes the same full name and date of birth that appears on your proof of vaccination (e.g.: Canadian passport, Provincial driver's license, Provincial health card).

14. Q. Will the COVID-19 proof of vaccination impede the mobility of Indigenous peoples whose territories extend across the Canada–U.S. border?

A. Indigenous peoples registered under the Indian Act, Canadian citizens, and permanent residents, who have a right of entry, as well as protected persons, do not need a proof of vaccination to enter Canada. However, those who cannot demonstrate they are fully vaccinated may be subject to public health measures, such as additional testing and mandatory quarantine.

The Canadian COVID-19 proof of vaccination is meant to simplify and facilitate border processing both in Canada and abroad, and complement existing provisions for fully vaccinated travellers. The implementation of this proof does not impede or change any existing treaty rights related to movement across the Canada-U.S. border. In addition, at this time there is no change to testing or quarantine requirements, or exemptions on entry into Canada, due to this proof of vaccination.

We continue to engage with Indigenous partners throughout the country to ensure that the proof of vaccination respects the needs and rights of Indigenous peoples. This includes ensuring that the program is equitable and accessible and takes into account the needs of Indigenous communities, including Canada–U.S. border communities.

15. Q: Will I have to quarantine if I am travelling with my COVID-19 Proof of Vaccination?

A: Your COVID-19 Proof of Vaccination **does not guarantee you** the right to enter a foreign country. Every country or territory decides who can enter or exit through its borders. Each country determines which vaccines to recognize and what types of documents for prove vaccination status are required to enter and the related exemptions that may be granted, such as reduced or no testing, quarantine requirements, access to public sites, etc.

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Your COVID-19 Proof of Vaccination will enable foreign jurisdictions to make a determination on what, if any, public health requirements are needed before you enter.

16. Q: Can I save more than one person's proof of vaccination on the same mobile device?

A: Yes, more than one proof of vaccination can be downloaded onto a single mobile device. You will need to check with your province or territory to see if they have a consent process in place that may grant permission to an individual, if authorized, to apply on behalf of someone else, and save on their mobile device. (i.e.: child or dependent).

17. Q: Will the COVID-19 Proof of Vaccination be available to all persons vaccinated in Canada?

A: The Government of Canada is working with provinces and territories to ensure the COVID-19 proof of vaccination is available to all vaccinated persons vaccinated in Canada, regardless of their gender identity, ethnicity, income, disability, citizenship status.

18. Q: Can I use the Canadian PVC to get into a tourist site or event or restaurant while I'm travelling in another country?

A: Different countries and regions within a country have different requirements. Some countries require all visitors who are vaccinated to obtain a local proof of vaccination document before they will be allowed entry to local businesses. Other countries ask visitors to show the proof of vaccination issued by their country. In some cases, it may be acceptable to provide proof of a recent negative test or proof that you have recovered from COVID-19. As part of planning a trip, you should check to confirm the local requirements for proofs of vaccination. Note that you will likely be required to show a secondary piece of ID to match your proof of vaccination.

19. Q: What if the country I am travelling to does not recognize/accept my Proof of Vaccination?

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A: Your COVID-19 proof of vaccination does not guarantee you the right to enter a foreign country. Every country or territory decides who can enter through its borders. Each country determines which vaccination and what proof of vaccination document are required to enter its territory and the related exemptions that may be granted, such as reduced or no testing, quarantine requirements, access to public sites, etc.

Government of Canada officials cannot assist individuals in avoiding the country's public health requirements like quarantine or testing.

Travellers are responsible for their travel plans and learning the entry and health requirements of their destination country before traveling. If a traveller does not meet the requirements of a foreign country, the traveller may need to return to Canada or their departure country at their own expense.

Travellers should not depend on the Government of Canada for assistance to change their travel plans.

20. Q: What if I lose my COVID-19 proof of vaccination, or if it is stolen?

A: If a traveller loses their paper proof or the electronic device where it was saved, they can log-in to the provincial or territorial web site to download or a print a new one. It is recommended that travellers bring their health card with them when traveling in the event they need to obtain a new proof of vaccination.

If a proof of vaccination is stolen, it cannot be used without a supporting identity document that matches the name and date of birth. It also cannot be used to access a provincial or territorial account without a health card number or other personal identifiers.

Returning to Canada

What Canadians need to know before they return to Canada

21. Q: I'm a Canadian citizen/resident who was vaccinated abroad; do I need a proof of vaccination to return to Canada?

A: All travellers entering Canada, regardless of citizenship, must use ArriveCAN. A traveller's information will need to be submitted to ArriveCAN within 72 hours before arrival to Canada.

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Canada's [COVID-19 travel information](#) provides entry requirements.

22. Q: What do I need to do before I return to Canada?

A. Within the 72 hours before your arrival in Canada, you must use ArriveCAN to submit:

- your contact and travel details, including where you've been and where you're going
- your COVID-19 vaccination information
- your pre-entry COVID-19 test results
- your quarantine plan; and
- your COVID-19 symptom self-assessment

Learn more about [ArriveCAN](#).

23. Q: Am I required to add information in the ArriveCan app and show paper proof to border officers?

A: With limited exceptions, all travellers are required to submit information to the Government of Canada in ArriveCAN when seeking to enter Canada. To determine whether a traveller meets Canada's health and entry requirements, travellers are required to upload their proof of vaccination into ArriveCAN. Canadian officials/systems will then be able to scan the QR code on the standardized Canadian proof of vaccination to verify the document, resulting in faster processing at the border.