Digital Documentation of COVID-19 Certificates: Dr Garrett Mehl, WHO

Unit Head, Digital Health and Innovations Department

25 May 2021

ICAO TRIP

Advice to WHO Secretariat - Health Measures in Relation to International Traffic

World Health Organization
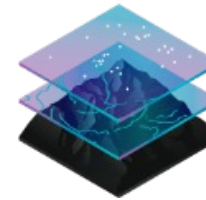
6th IHR EC advice – Jan 15th 2021

Coordinate with relevant stakeholders the **development of standards for digital documentation** of COVID-19 travel-related risk reduction measures, that can be implemented on **interoperable digital platforms**. This should include **vaccination status** in preparation for widespread vaccine access.

7th IHR EC advice – Apr 19th 2021

Continue to **coordinate** with relevant **stakeholders in the fields of international travel and transport**, including ICAO, UNWTO, and IATA, for the regular review, updating, and dissemination of evidence-based **guidance on travel-related risk reduction measures**.

Continue to update the WHO interim position on the considerations regarding requirements of proof of vaccination and to produce interim **guidance and tools** related to **standardization** of **paper** and **digital** documentation of COVID-19 travel-related risk reduction measures (**vaccination status**, **SARS-COV-2 testing and COVID-19 recovery status**) in the context of **international travel**.

The digital documentation status is part of a much larger information ecosystem for Immunizations and COVID-19

DOCUMENTATION
STATUS

FOCUS

Source: Slide from Innovation in COVID-19 Vaccine Delivery working group

Smart Vaccination Certificate working group

For WHO to remain software neutral, the Smart Vaccination Certificate working group was created

183 **Participants** in the Smart Vaccination Certificate Working group, including

25 Member state representatives

16 International organizations

8 departments across WHO and all regional offices

+ experts from private sector and academia

What is a Smart Vaccination Certificate?

- A **digital vaccination certificate** based on the existing *home-based records* guidance and the *international certification of vaccination or prophylaxis*

- A **medical document** managed by **public health authorities** of member states

- Can be **purely digital** (i.e., stored on a smartphone application) **or be a complementary digital "twin"** of traditional paper records

- The SVC only documents **vaccination events,** but is architected to evolve with the science, and needs of countries

- Following IHR Emergency Committee Advice to WHO, the focus of specifications will expand to include lab test, and recovery status – Specifications on **Digital Documentation of COVID Certificates**

Architecting for the future – Digital Documentation of Certificates

The Digital Documentation of COVID-19 Certificate specifications set the foundation for supporting an internationally recognized patient summary that is held by an individual

VACCINATION CERTIFICATE ▶ **DIGITAL DOCUMENTATION OF COVID-19 CERTIFICATES** ▶ **PERSONAL HEALTH RECORD** ▶

- Only documents **vaccination events**

Can also document:

- **Routine immunizations for children**

Can also document:

- **Lab test results**

- **Evidence of previous COVID-19 infection**

Can also support:

- **International patient summary standard**

- **Other health events**

- **Risk factors**

- **Allergies**

- **Etc.**

Application of Digital COVID-19 Certificates

	Digital Home-based record for immunizations	Digital Documentation of COVID-19 Certificates	Digital International Certificate of Vaccination or Prophylaxis
Type of document	**Medical** document	Health document for **non-healthcare purposes**	**Legal** document
Governance mechanism	*WHO recommends* 🡒 *Member States implement*	*WHO recommends* 🡒 *Member States implement*	• Strict data requirements (IHR, Annex 6) • Changes require Member State agreement • Constrains to an approved list of vaccines • Constrains to a list of certified health workers
Primary use	Caregivers can keep track of a child's **routine immunizations** and/or pregnant women can keep track of TT vaccines (continuity of care)	To allow people to show **PROOF** of vaccination, recently negative COVID-19 test, previous COVID-19 infection/recovery status	**International Travel ONLY** under a specific circumstance e.g. Travel to/from a yellow fever endemic area
Timeline	Long-term	Short-term need	Long-term
COVID-19 vaccination	Recorded on a COVID-19 specific vaccine card.	To be included	*May* be recorded in "other vaccines" section.
COVID-19 test results	Not included	To be included	Not included
COVID-19 recovery status	Not included	To be included	Not included

What is in the guidance/specifications document?

Requirements and specifications for technology implementers

❑ Business processes & workflows

❑ Core data elements mapped to standard terminology code sets (spread sheet of data with ICD codes)

❑ Functional and non-functional requirements

❑ HL7 FHIR Implementation Guide (website)

Context setting for specifications document

❑ Executive summary

❑ Data protection principles

❑ Ethical considerations

❑ National architecture recommendations

Digital Documentation of Certificates Outputs from WHO

World Health Organization

SPECIFICATIONS & GUIDANCE DOCUMENTATION

1. Specifications document for a **digital documentation of COVID certificates** (Vaccination, lab, recovery) for *national* level adoption

2. Implementation guidance for establishing **national trust frameworks** for issuing and validating trusted certificates

   for validation of DVC

COUNTRY SUPPORT

3. **Reference Software** for a digital documentation of COVID certificates

4. **Technical support to LMICs** at varying levels of digital and immunization information system maturity through WHO, expert roster, and multi-agency support mechanisms

5. **Financing** to country-level implementation from COVAX mechanism

GLOBAL DIGITAL SERVICES

6. **Global vaccine product registry** to provide a canonical list of all known and coded vaccines

Thank you!