



# GMS Flash Alert

Immigration Edition

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## European Union - Update, COVID-19 Certificates from Non-EU Countries

All nationals residing within the European Union are eligible for COVID-19 digital certificate.<sup>1</sup> Switzerland, North Macedonia, Turkey, and Ukraine are already connected to the EU's system for digital COVID-19 certificates.<sup>2</sup>

New countries are added to the digital gateway and include Albania, Andorra, Faroe Islands, Israel, Monaco, Morocco, and Panama.<sup>3</sup>

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### WHY THIS MATTERS

The EU COVID-19 digital certificate proves that a person has been vaccinated against COVID-19, received a negative test result, or recovered from COVID-19. The digital certificate makes travelling safer and easier in the EU and non-EU countries that are connected to the EU digital system.

For example, the certificate could mean that one doesn't have to quarantine or get tested upon arrival or repeatedly after arrival.

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### COVID-19 Digital Certificate

The COVID-19 digital certificate states that citizens are fully vaccinated against COVID-19, have tested negative for the virus, or are recovering from infection. The specifications about issuance, verification, and acceptance of the certificates are outlined in the EU Regulation<sup>4</sup>.

COVID-19 digital certificates issued in the EU are recognised in all countries that are connected to the EU system and vice versa.

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## KPMG NOTE

THE EU COVID-19 certificate demonstrates an acceptance of vaccines that are approved by the European Medicines Agency (EMA). Some non-EU countries have approved and used vaccines that are not yet approved by EMA such as Sputnik V and Sinovac. When an individual is vaccinated with a vaccine that is not approved by EMA, it is up to each EU member state to decide if it will accept that vaccine as a sufficient proof for immunisation.

It is not yet clear how the different approval statuses of vaccines in the EU will be handled by the EU system for the COVID-19 digital certificate.

It is important for travellers to inform themselves thoroughly about all travel requirements before each trip. The EU Commission has set up a website and an app [Re-open EU](#) that contain detailed information about travel restrictions in EU member states.

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## FOOTNOTES:

- 1 European Commission, "[EU Digital COVID Certificate](#)" (20 September 2021).
- 2 See [GMS Flash Alert 2021-226](#), 31 August 2021. Also see [GMS Flash Alert 2021-237](#), 16 September 2021.
- 3 European Commission, "[EU Digital COVID Certificate: Commission adopts equivalence decisions for Albania, Andorra, Faroe Islands, Israel, Monaco, Morocco and Panama](#)" (15 September 2021).
- 4 European Commission, "[EU Digital COVID Certificate: Commission adopts equivalence decisions for Turkey, North Macedonia and Ukraine](#)" (19 August 2021).

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**The information contained in this newsletter was submitted by the KPMG International member firm in The Netherlands.**

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