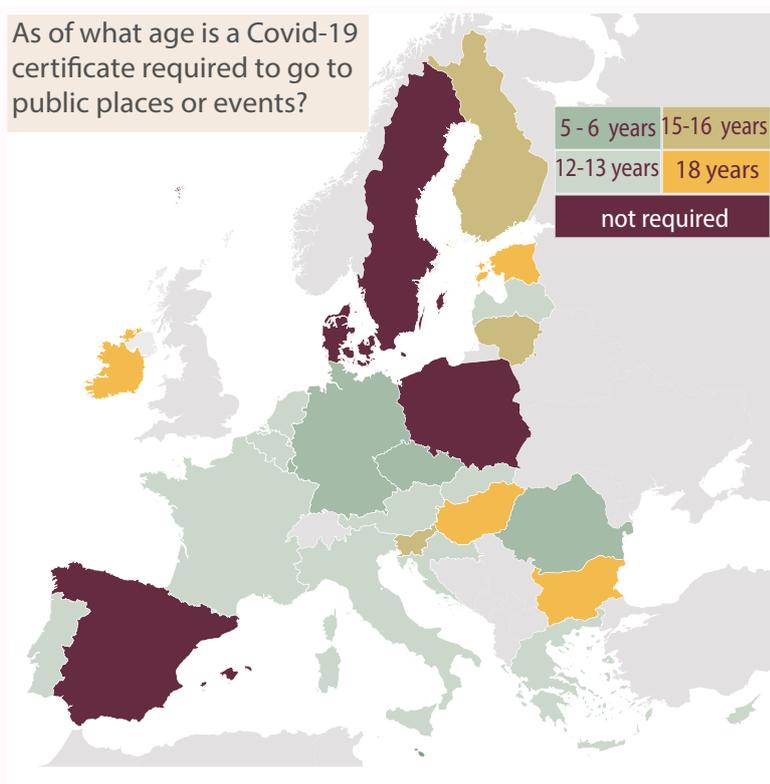


Domestic use of EU Digital Covid Certificates

Just before summer 2021, the EU adopted in record time (see timeline below) two regulations on the [EU Digital Covid Certificate](#). The certificate with a QR code shows if a person has been vaccinated, tested negative or recovered from Covid-19. It is free of charge, available on paper or on a smartphone, and valid in all EU Member States. In total, [43 countries](#) in the world are connected to the EU Digital Covid Certificate system. Its aim is to facilitate safe cross-border movement during the Covid-19 pandemic, but Member States are also free to use it for other purposes. This overview shows which Member States are using Covid-19 certificates for other purposes than cross-border travel (data as of 25 October 2021). It indicates where and from whom it is required, as well as which proofs are accepted. Some countries use a different name for the certificate: e.g. CovidCheck, SafePass, Corona/health pass(port). In all Member States, the EU Digital Covid Certificate is accepted as proof of vaccination, test or recovery. Some (like Austria) also accept other proofs, such as proof of neutralising antibodies.

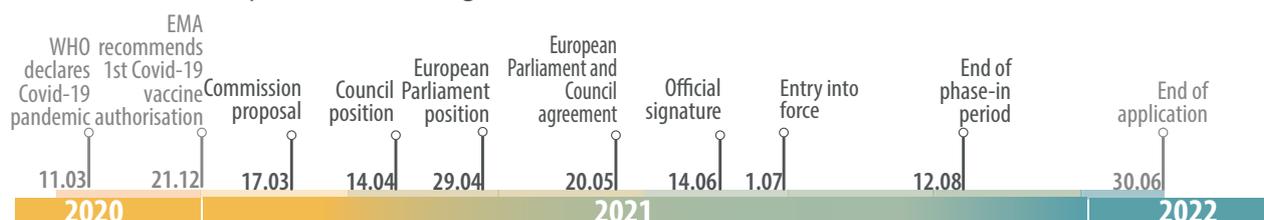
Covid-19 certificates: Required to enter places and events

As of what age is a Covid-19 certificate required to go to public places or events?

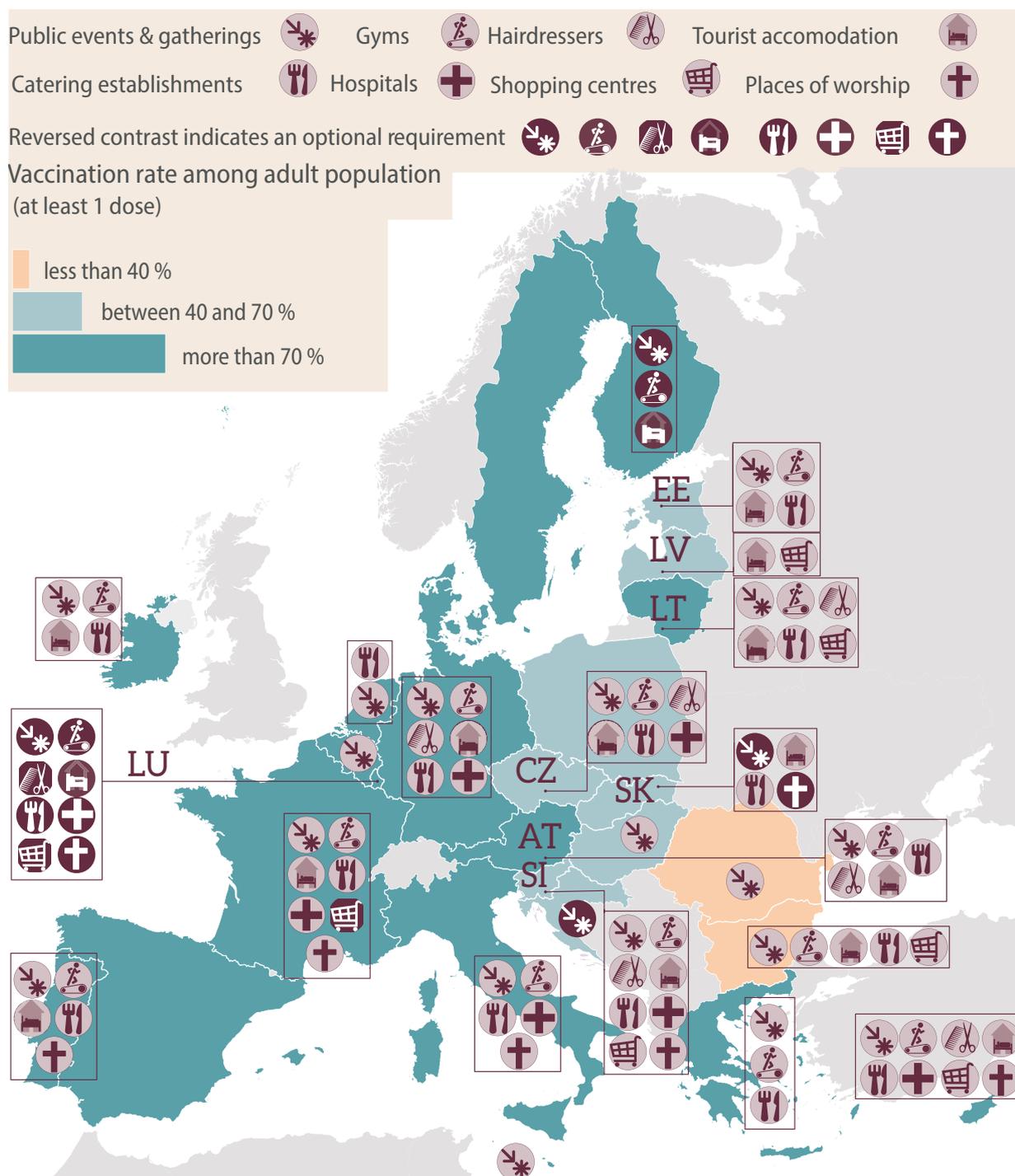


In many Member States, the Covid-19 certificate is now required from almost everyone to go to public events or to places such as bars, restaurants, gyms or hotels; sometimes even to enter shopping centres or to take public transport. As seen from the map, children are exempted in all countries but up to different ages. Some countries (such as [Estonia](#)) also exempt certain other people, like those, who, for health reasons (on a doctor's decision), can neither be tested for Covid-19 nor vaccinated against the disease (very limited group). Only a few Member States have not established such a system at national level (shown in dark red on the map). Although it was the first EU country to implement a [Corona passport](#) system six months ago, Denmark has now abolished the vaccination, test or recovery requirement in its national law.

Timeline of the adoption of the EU Digital Covid Certificate



Where is a Covid-19 Certificate required? (non-exhaustive list) Country-wide requirements and vaccination rate among the adult population



BE: additional requirements apply in some regions; BG: the certificate is required in shopping centres with a net retail area over 300 m². Visits to hospitals (except in certain cases) are suspended; CY: if more than 20 people; EL, IE, IT: if indoors; FR: if more than 50 people, the certificate is required only in shopping centres larger than 20 000 m² depending on decision of the prefect and on the incidence rate of the region. In places of worship the certificate is required only for events; IT: in places of worship the certificate is required only for events; LV: gyms, hairdressers and catering establishments are closed, public events are not allowed; PT: if more than 500 spectators inside or more than 1 000 outside, during religious ceremonies such as weddings and baptisms with more than 10 people and for catering events held indoors on Fridays from 7 pm, at weekends and on public holidays; RO: implementation depends on the Covid-19 infection rate in each municipality; there are plans to extend the use of Covid-19 certificate to other venues; SI: if more than 100 participants attending the event.

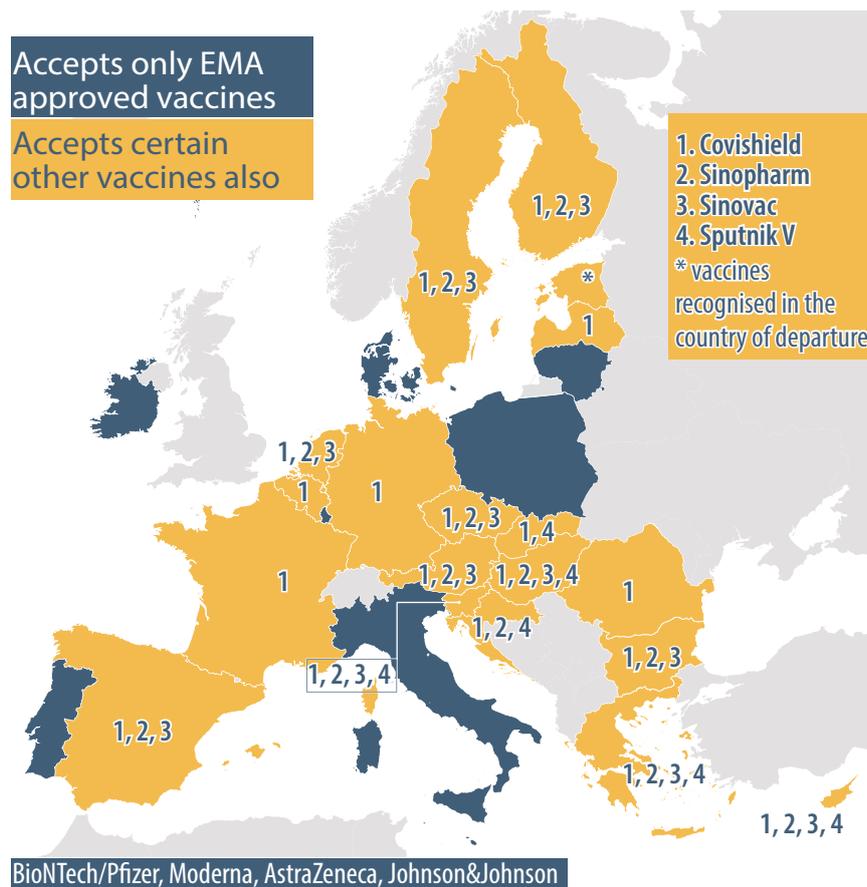
Widespread use of Covid-19 certificates

As seen from the map on page 2, a Covid-19 certificate is now asked in numerous places across the EU. In some Member States the certificate is also asked for on another occasions than those mentioned on the map. For example, in [Slovenia](#) a Covid-19 certificate is now obligatory for all employees as well as all users of services or activities, except in certain cases (such as supply of basic necessities of life). [France](#) is also using the health pass (*pass sanitaire*) extensively. In addition to the places mentioned on page 2, it is also required in high-speed, intercity and night trains as well as for long-distance travel by plane or bus. In some countries (including Germany and Italy), a Covid-19 certificate is also required in certain [universities](#).

According to the EU regulations, when requiring Covid-19 certificate for other purposes than entry into the country, EU Member States should establish a legal basis in their national law. This varies from country to country. For example, Italy introduced the Green Pass with [Decree no 52](#) of 22 April (Article 9). The legal basis of the decree is the Constitution (in particular [Article 32](#) that states that, 'The Republic safeguards health as a fundamental right of the individual and as a collective interest, and guarantees free medical care to the indigent.')

With the requirement to present a Covid-19 certificate to go to numerous places, [countries](#) are hoping to make congregating safer and to motivate more people to get vaccinated. Although some citizens accept them as a short-term inconvenience that allows public places to stay open, others criticise them for not respecting civil liberties. Countries also face problems with [fake health passes](#) that are being sold across the EU.

Which vaccines are accepted when entering the country?



In some countries, the Covid-19 certificate has indeed pushed many people to get vaccinated. This is true for France. When President Emmanuel Macron announced, on 12 July 2021, that a health pass would be required in numerous public places, France was counting about [170000 first-time vaccinations](#) a day. Since then, the first-time vaccinations per day have almost doubled. By 14 October 2021, [France](#) had given at least one vaccine dose to 96% of adults. At the same time, people have [demonstrated](#) against Covid-19 certificates, claiming they discriminate against the unvaccinated.

Obtaining an exhaustive overview of all the places and conditions in which the vaccination, test or recovery certificate is required is practically impossible.

Given the rapidly adapting situation, Member States are constantly changing their rules, by adding and deleting places where the certificate is required. They are also often reviewing the requirements in terms of what kind of proof is accepted and who is exempted. As required by the [Regulation on the EU Digital Covid Certificate](#), all Member States must accept vaccines approved by the European Medicines Agency (EMA). As seen from the map on this page, most Member States also accept proof of vaccination with certain other vaccines.

Time limits on validity of the EU Digital Covid Certificate by country

The temporal validity of EU Digital Covid Certificates when entering the country varies across the EU. The regulation on the EU Digital Covid Certificate sets certain framework conditions. For example, it says that the certificate of recovery should be valid for a maximum 180 days after the positive swab. However, in Denmark certificates of recovery are valid up to one year, in Greece and Croatia up to nine months. When comparing data in the map on page 1 and the graphic on this page, one can see that children are not exempt at the same age. The age limit may also vary inside a country, depending on whether it is required when entering the country or to access public events and places like restaurants and hotels. The chart does not take into account special rules for residents or nationals of the Member State concerned.

Vaccination certificate		2 doses		1 dose		Test certificate		
		BioNTech/Pfizer, Moderna, AstraZeneca		Johnson&Johnson		PCR Antigen		
Validity of recovery certificate in days				Age below which exemption for children applies				
BE	NL	DK	SE	FI	PL	LT	LV	EE
14 14	14 14*	14* 14*	14 14	14 14	14 14	14 14	15 15	15* 14
72 na	48 24	72* 48*	72 72	72 72	48 48	72 48	72 48	72* 48
11-180	180*	14-365	11-180	180	180	180	11-180	180
12	12	16	18	15	12	16	12	12
IE	FR	LU	AT	DE	CZ	SK	HU	RO
15* 14	7 28	1 14	14* 21	14 14	14 14	14* 21*	1* 1	10 10
72 na	72 48	72 48	72 48	72 48	72* 48*	72* na	72 na	72 na
11-180	11-180	11-180	180	28-180	180	14-180	180	180
12	12	12	12	12	6	12	18	12
PT	ES	IT	MT	SI	HR	EL	BG	CY
14 14	14 14	14 14	14 14	21* 14	1* 14*	14 14	14 14	1 14
72 48	72 48	48 48	72* na	72 48	72* 48*	72 48	72 48	72* na
11-180	11-180	180	na	10-180	11-270	20-270	11-180	14-180
12	12	6	5	15	12	12	12	12

The chart shows the number of days after the last required dose for a vaccine certificate to be considered valid. Test validity is expressed in hours prior to arrival, and accepted also if taken upon arrival in Croatia, Denmark, Estonia and Czechia (if coming from countries with low or medium risk). The validity of a certificate of recovery is expressed in days after a positive swab. Austria, Denmark, Estonia, Slovakia and Hungary accept vaccination certificates only if travellers are vaccinated against Covid-19 in the last 12 months and Croatia if they are vaccinated in the last 270 days.

* See notes for other country-specific observations.

Data sources: <https://reopen.europa.eu>, www.schengenvisainfo.com and visaguide.world (in case of conflicting information, schengenvisainfo.com prevailed).

Notes: NL: if single dose vaccine administered after 14.08.2021, 28 days; recovery certificate not accepted if travelling from a very high risk area; DK: vaccination certificate is valid also after first dose if 14 days have passed (and second dose within 42 days of first dose); EE: double dose vaccine valid between 7 and 15 days after getting the second dose, test can be taken also upon arrival; IE: double dose vaccine valid between 7 and 15 days after getting the second dose; SK and MT: PCR test followed by quarantine upon arrival, MT accepts certificate of recovery if the person has received also at least one dose of vaccine; CY and NL: test validity upon departure; HR: vaccination certificate is valid also after first dose if 22 days have passed (and not more than 42-84 days depending on the vaccine). Test can also be taken upon arrival.

Country codes: Belgium (BE), Bulgaria (BG), Czechia (CZ), Denmark (DK), Germany (DE), Estonia (EE), Ireland (IE), Spain (ES), France (FR), Greece (EL), Croatia (HR), Hungary (HU), Italy (IT), Cyprus (CY), Latvia (LV), Lithuania (LT), Luxembourg (LU), Malta (MT), Netherlands (NL), Austria (AT), Poland (PL), Portugal (PT), Romania (RO), Slovakia (SK), Slovenia (SI), Finland (FI), Sweden (SE).

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