

Update from the World Health Organization (WHO)

2nd meeting of the Joint Action Group to review the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the world's transport workers and the global supply chain (JAG-TSC)

27 May 2022

Outline

1. Updates from WHA75 on key intergovernmental processes for health emergency preparedness and response
2. Update and digitalization of the International Certificate of Vaccination or Prophylaxis (ICVP)
3. Overview of digital documentation of COVID-19 certificates (COVID-19)

Updates from WHA75 on key intergovernmental processes for health emergency preparedness and response

Updates from the 75th session of the World Health Assembly (WHA75)

- WHA is the **main decision-making body** of WHO, comprised of 194 Member States, who meet yearly to agree on the **Organization's priorities and policies**.
- **WHA75** taking place on **22-28 May 2022** in **Geneva**.
 - Live webcast and recordings ([LINK](#))
- Health emergencies feature prominently in the agenda, including several proposals to **strengthen WHO and the global architecture of preparedness for and response to health emergencies**.



Working Group on Preparedness and Response (WGPR) (1/2)



- Established by the WHA74 in May 2021 – as per resolution WHA74.7 – to **consider the findings and recommendations** of:
 1. Independent Panel for Pandemic Preparedness and Response (IPPPR)
 2. IHR Review Committee
 3. Independent Oversight and Advisory Committee for the WHO Health Emergencies Programme
 4. Global Preparedness Monitoring Board
- **Report to WHASS** (SSA2/3) ([LINK](#)), prioritizing the assessment of the benefits of developing a WHO convention, agreement, or instrument on PPR
- **Final report** (A75/17) ([LINK](#)) has been **submitted to and noted by WHA75**, and its related **decision adopted** in order to:

Working Group on Preparedness and Response (WGPR) (1/2)

- a. Continue the WGPR with a revised mandate, including, as appropriate and if agreed within each region, the rotation of the Bureau, and name (“**Working Group on IHR amendments**” (WGIHR)), to work exclusively on consideration of **proposed IHR targeted amendments**, in accordance with decision EB150(3), with a view to their adoption by consensus at the **77th session of the WHA**
 - MS should submit proposed amendments by 30 September 2022
 - WGIHR’s 1st meeting should be convened no later than 15 November 2022, and should coordinate with the INB process
- b. Invite the DG to convene an **IHR Review Committee** to make **technical recommendations on the proposed amendments** referred to in subparagraph (b) below, with a view to informing the work of the WGIHR
 - Should be established no later than 1 October 2022
 - Its final report should be submitted no later than 15 January 2023

Intergovernmental Negotiating Body (INB)

- Established by the special session of the WHA in December 2021 – as per decision SSA2(5) – to draft and negotiate a **WHO convention, agreement or other international instrument on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response** [\[LINK\]](#)
- 24 February 2022: **first meeting** held, and resumed on 14-15 March 2022
 - Elected Bureau, including co-Chairs
 - Discussed and agreed on the methods of work
- March – April 2022: **Member States' and stakeholders' inputs on substantive elements of the instrument**
- 12-13 April 2022: **1st public hearings** on the new instrument
- 14-17 June 2022: **Subgroup meetings** to discuss the outline of substantive elements
- Week of 18 July 2022: second meeting of INB to discuss a working draft based on the outline of substantive elements and agree on the constitutional provision
- **Final outcome** will be submitted to the **77th session** of the **WHA** in **May 2024**

Update and digitalization of the International Certificate of Vaccination or Prophylaxis (ICVP)

“Yellow Booklet” – Two parts

Part 1- International Certificate of Vaccination or Prophylaxis (ICVP) as per Annex 6 of the International Health Regulations (IHR):

- Used to record vaccination or prophylaxis of international travellers for **vaccines and medicines approved by WHO** (e.i. for vaccines: WHO Emergency Use Listing Procedure (EUL) or prequalified by WHO)
- Only for vaccines or medicines for which there are specific IHR provisions or Temporary or Standing Recommendations issued in accordance with the IHR
 - Yellow Fever vaccine, in line with requirements in IHR Annex 7
 - Poliomyelitis vaccine, as set out in Temporary Recommendations issued in relation to the Polio PHEIC

Part 2- Non-IHR-related sections:

- “Other vaccinations” to record other vaccines

Uses and limitations of the “Yellow Booklet” during the COVID-19 pandemic

- Vaccination against COVID-19 not contemplated by IHR provisions, or application thereof - absence of legal foundations
- Inconsistent recording of COVID-19 vaccination in the “Yellow Booklet”: some countries use the ICVP section; some the “other vaccinations” one; some rely on other supports
- Vaccination vs immunity
- Duration of immunity and number of doses or boosters required
- Risk of fraud

Digitalization of the International Certificate of Vaccination or Prophylaxis (ICVP)

- WHO reviewing the paper-based “Yellow Booklet” containing the ICVP, and restructuring of section for recording vaccination status of international travellers
- Once the revised paper-based “Yellow Booklet” is finalized, WHO will be working towards its digitalization

**International Certificate of
Vaccination or Prophylaxis**

International Health Regulations (2005)

**Certificat international de
vaccination ou de prophylaxie**

Règlement sanitaire international (2005)

Issued to / Délivré à

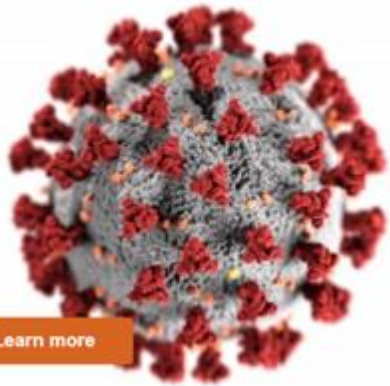
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Passport number or travel document number
Numéro du passeport ou du document de voyage

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Temporary Recommendations in relation to international traffic following the 11th meeting of the IHR Emergency Committee on the

COVID-19 IHR Emergency Committee



- [COVID-19 IHR Emergency Committee](#)
- [Statement on the 11th meeting of the COVID-19 IHR EC](#)

- **Lift international traffic bans and continue to adjust travel measures, based on risk assessments.** The failure of travel bans introduced after the detection and reporting of Omicron variant to limit international spread of Omicron demonstrates the ineffectiveness of such measures over time. The implementation of travel measures (such as vaccination, screening, including via testing, isolation/quarantine of travelers) should be based on risk assessments and should avoid placing the financial burden on international travelers, in accordance with Article 40 of the IHR
- **Do NOT require proof of vaccination against COVID-19 for international travel as the only pathway or condition permitting international travel.** States Parties should consider a risk-based approach to the facilitation of international travel

Next IHR Emergency Committee COVID-19 will take place around 12 July 2022

Overview of digital documentation of COVID-19 certificates (COVID-19)

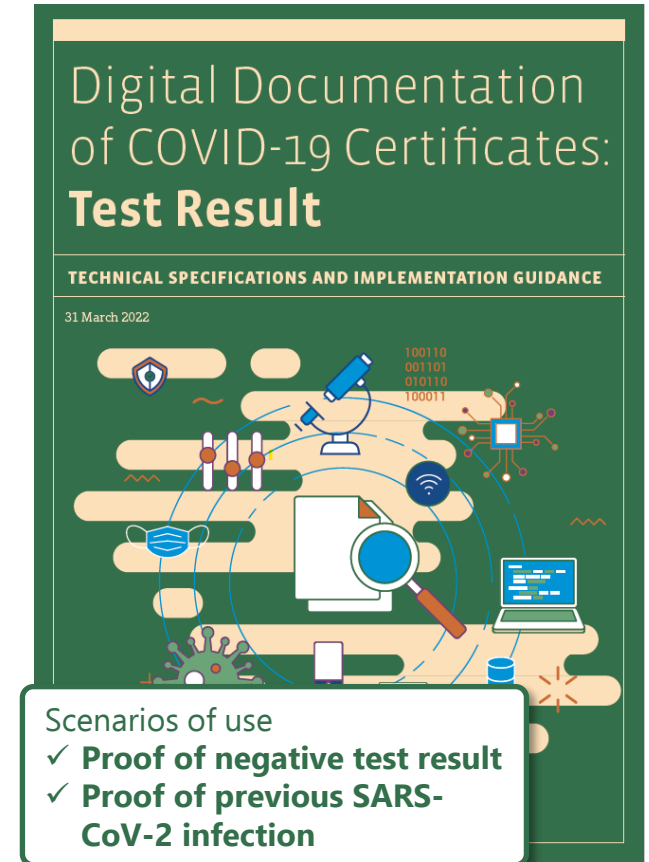
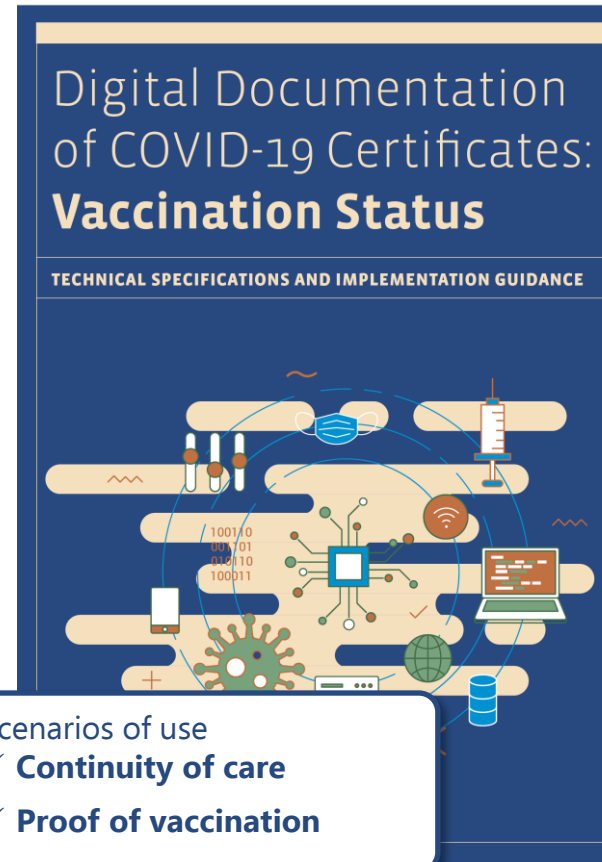
Both DDCC guidance documents have been published and contain...

Requirements and specifications for technology implementers

- Business processes, workflows & use cases
- **Core data elements** mapped to standard terminology code sets (including **an annexed spreadsheet**)
- Functional and non-functional requirements
- Overview of signing a digital certificate with PKI
- **HL7 FHIR Implementation Guide** (linked website) detailing relevant standards for consistent representation and interoperability

Implementation considerations

- Data protection principles
- Ethical considerations
- National governance considerations

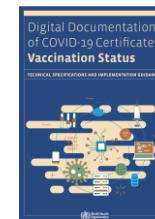


Digital documentation of COVID-19 certificates: vaccination status: technical specifications and implementation guidance, 27 August 2021 (who.int)

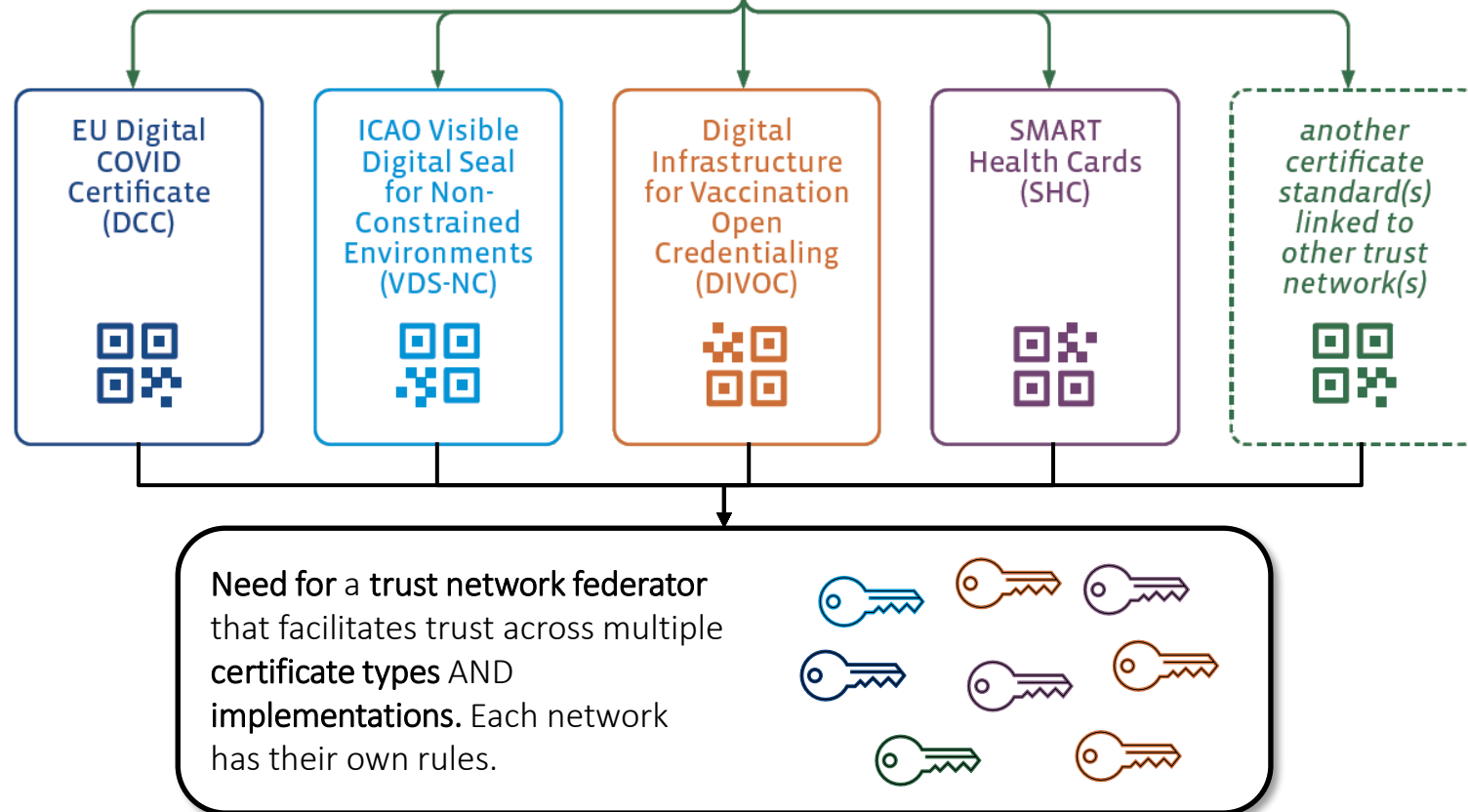
Digital documentation of COVID-19 certificates: test result: technical specifications and implementation guidance, 31 March 2022 (who.int)

DDCC is an “umbrella” specification

WHO DDCC Document
Signed HL7 FHIR document



can be used to generate multiple representations of a test result certificate



- Varying public health policies across countries based on their risk tolerance
 - Mutual recognition vs. Reissuance
- Many existing digital standards that don't interoperate
- Establishing a new standard or central solution would not be viable at this point in the pandemic
- Investment in digital technologies is expensive – will need to architect for use cases beyond COVID-19
- Updating the IHR and digitizing the International Certificate of Vaccination or Prophylaxis (“yellow card”) will take time
- There is a need for directory to federate across trust networks

Future directions of the DDCC - federated model of Interoperable Digital Health Trust Networks

- WHO is coordinating and consulting with member states, G20, OECD, GDHP to discuss a federated model of Interoperable Digital Health Trust Networks consisting of:

1. **Directory of trusted services** including:

- **PKI** (for any digitally signed health document)
- **Metadata services** (e.g. terminology and health commodity catalogs)
- **Business rules library** (e.g. is a given course of vaccinations considered valid?)
- **Credential & health document issuance**

2. **Federator to manage access** between trust networks

- Leverage the **HL7 FHIR** (Fast Healthcare Interoperability Resources) **IPS** (International Patient Summary)
- Working towards a **portable digital health wallet**



Thank you