

# Foreign Vaccination Certificates

## Fact Sheet

From November 2021, some travellers to and from Australia will be subject to different rules if they can prove they are fully vaccinated.

### ***What does it mean to be fully vaccinated?***

Each country has its own definition. Australia's is set by the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI). A person is fully vaccinated if they have completed a course of a vaccine **approved** or **recognised** by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA). **Current** approved and recognised vaccines and dosages are:

- Two doses at least 14 days apart of:
  - AstraZeneca Vaxzevria
  - AstraZeneca Covishield
  - Pfizer/Biontech Comirnaty
  - Moderna Spikevax
  - Sinovac Coronovac
- Or one dose of:
  - Janssen-Cilag COVID Vaccine.

**Seven days** must have passed since the last dose of vaccine in a course of immunisation.

The TGA is evaluating other COVID-19 vaccines that may be recognised for the purposes of inbound travel to Australia in future. Information on the latest approved and recognised vaccines is available on the TGA website.

### ***How will travellers prove they're fully vaccinated?***

By presenting either an Australian International COVID-19 Vaccination Certificate or a vaccination certificate issued in a foreign country. Travellers who present a foreign vaccination certificate will also make a legally binding attestation in their Australia Travel Declaration (ATD) that the certificate is true and that they are fully vaccinated.

### ***Who will check that travellers are fully vaccinated?***

Airlines will perform this check when a traveller checks in for a flight.

### ***What kinds of foreign vaccination certificate are acceptable?***

Any foreign certificate – paper or digital – is acceptable as long as:

- it was issued by a national or state/provincial-level authority or an accredited vaccination provider (for example a pharmacy, or a doctor/nurse signing an entry in a WHO yellow book)
- it's in English, or accompanied by a certified translation
- it shows
  - the traveller's name as it appears in the passport
  - either traveller's date of birth or passport number
  - the vaccine brand name, and
  - either the date of each dose or the date on which the traveller completed a full course of immunisation.

### ***What about children?***

All children aged **under 12 years** count as fully vaccinated for travel purposes.

### ***What about 12-16 year-olds from countries that don't vaccinate children?***

Countries handle this question in different ways. Australia has decided to vaccinate children aged 12 years and over in the same way as adults. That's why Australia's definition requires them to be fully vaccinated.

### ***What if a traveller isn't fully vaccinated?***

Travellers aged 12 years and over who don't meet Australia's definition of fully vaccinated may still be able to travel and enter Australia, but only under the rules for unvaccinated travel, unless they are medically exempt.

Some States and Territories may choose to exempt 12-16 year-olds from quarantine in certain circumstances, for instance if they come from countries that don't vaccinate children or only provide a single dose, or if all adults within the travelling group are vaccinated.

### ***What if a traveller has recovered from COVID with only one vaccine dose of a two-dose course?***

Australia's definition of fully vaccinated doesn't include this scenario. Travellers will not meet the definition of fully vaccinated unless they've received a full course of vaccine, are under 12 years of age or are medically exempt.

It is important that people who have had COVID-19 get vaccinated when it is safe to do so.

### ***What if a traveller is medically unable to be vaccinated?***

The traveller will need to provide **evidence of a medical exemption**. States and Territories may not always accept medical exemptions.

### ***What are the rules for translations?***

Translations have to be certified with the stamp or membership number of a professional translation association. The entire certificate has to be translated, not just part of it.

### ***What if the certificate doesn't show the entire name that's in the passport?***

Some certificates truncate names or don't include middle names. That's not a problem. As long as the name on the certificate is **not materially different** to the name in the passport, it is acceptable.

### ***What if the name in a vaccination certificate is materially different to the passport name?***

The traveller will need to provide evidence of being the person named on the certificate, such as a marriage certificate, driver licence or national identity card.