

Data protection information about the digital COVID vaccination certificate

In brief: What is the digital COVID vaccination certificate?

People who are fully vaccinated are exempt from certain coronavirus restrictions, and vaccinated people are once again able to travel more freely in the European Union (EU). If you want to easily carry proof of your vaccination with you at all times, you can receive a digital COVID vaccination certificate in addition to your standard vaccination document. The digital COVID vaccination certificate is valid as proof within the EU.

1. A COVID vaccination certificate will be issued to you **upon request**.
2. You will then receive a printed document with a QR code. This code contains your **COVID vaccination certificate**. If needed, you can show this QR code in the situations where it is required by law in order to prove that you have been vaccinated against the coronavirus. The QR code contains the data about your coronavirus vaccination in encoded form. If you let someone scan the QR code, your details will be read – but only your name, date of birth and vaccination status will be displayed.

The QR code for your COVID vaccination certificate is generated by the Robert Koch Institute (RKI), which confirms the authenticity and validity of the COVID vaccination certificate. For this purpose, your coronavirus vaccination data is transmitted to an RKI server and electronically signed before being deleted.

3. You may also decide to carry your **COVID vaccination certificate in digital form in an app**. To do this, you can scan the printed QR code with a suitable app in order to save the data about your coronavirus vaccination on your smartphone.

The QR code in the app then displays the COVID vaccination certificate in digital form, containing encoded information about your vaccination. You can use the QR code in the app as proof just like the paper document. You can also check in the app whether you are considered fully vaccinated yet.

If you no longer need the COVID vaccination certificate, you can destroy the QR code you received at any time. If you've already added the COVID vaccination certificate to an app, you can delete it from the app at any time. You can also find more information in your app's privacy notice.

Please keep the printed COVID vaccination certificate containing the QR code in a safe place so that you can scan it again later on if necessary (e.g. if you get a new smartphone). If you destroy the COVID vaccination certificate, please make sure that the QR code printed on it is completely destroyed so that no one else can use it.



Details about data processing

1. Who is responsible for the data processing?

The Robert Koch Institute (RKI) is responsible for the processing for the purpose of creating your COVID vaccination certificate. The RKI is also responsible here for ensuring that your personal data is processed in compliance with data protection regulations. If you have any questions or concerns regarding data protection, you are welcome to send them to the RKI's official data protection officer by post to: Robert Koch-Institut, FAO the data protection officer, Nordufer 20, 13353 Berlin, or by emailing: datenschutz@rki.de.

2. Is using the COVID vaccination certificate voluntary?

Using the COVID vaccination certificate is voluntary. It is entirely up to you whether you have a COVID vaccination certificate created, add your certificate in an app, or show it to third parties to prove – in the situations where this is required by law – that you have been vaccinated against the coronavirus.

The COVID vaccination certificate can be used both in Germany and when travelling in the EU as proof of vaccination against the coronavirus.

The legal basis of the processing for creating your COVID vaccination certificate is Art. 6(1) Sentence 1(c), Art. 9(2)(g) of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) in conjunction with Sect. 22(5) Sentence 4 of the Infection Protection Act (IfSG).

3. Why will my data be processed?

In order to create the digital COVID vaccination certificate, the RKI needs to add what is known as an electronic signature to your data about your coronavirus vaccination. This is a special type of encryption that allows the RKI to confirm that the certificate is an official digital document created by the RKI.

The vaccination site records your vaccination data for the signature and transmits it to the RKI in a secure encrypted form. The RKI signs the data electronically and sends it back to the vaccination site. Afterwards, the vaccination site will give you the COVID vaccination certificate in the form of the printed QR code.

You can scan the printed QR code to add your vaccination data in a suitable app. The data is read directly from the QR code and only stored on your smartphone.

4. What data is processed?

To create your digital COVID certificate, the RKI needs the data about your coronavirus vaccination. This includes:

- Data about the vaccinated person (last name, first name, date of birth)
- Information about the vaccine (disease, vaccine, product, manufacturer)
- Vaccination information (dose number, total doses, date of vaccination, country, issuer)
- Unique identifier of the COVID certificate
- The RKI's electronic signature.



Your COVID certificate's identifier is unique and does not contain any information about you. The data about your coronavirus vaccination is encoded in the QR code.

5. When will your data be deleted?

The RKI will not permanently store data about your coronavirus vaccination. Your vaccination data will be deleted immediately after your COVID vaccination certificate has been created.

COVID vaccination certificates are not automatically deleted in your app. If you wish to delete a certificate, you can remove a COVID vaccination certificate from the app yourself or delete the app. To add a COVID vaccination certificate in the app again later, you will need to rescan the QR code given to you at the vaccination site.

6. Who will receive your data?

If, in the situations where it is required by law, other individuals or entities use an official verification app to scan and read your vaccination information in the form of a QR code (e.g. as proof of your vaccination status and entitlement to certain exemptions under coronavirus restrictions), the verification app will indicate whether you are fully vaccinated. Additionally, your name and date of birth will be displayed in the verification app. Your details will not be stored in the verification app.

The RKI has commissioned the company KDO Service GmbH (KDO) to operate and maintain the server system. KDO processes the personal data on behalf and at the instruction of the RKI (meaning it is what's known as a processor under data protection law). The RKI has concluded a separate agreement with KDO to guarantee compliance with the data protection requirements.

7. What other rights do you have under data protection law?

If the RKI processes your personal data, you also have the following data protection rights:

- The rights under Art. 15, 16, 17, 18, 20 and 21 GDPR
- The right to contact the official RKI data protection officer and raise your concerns (Art. 38(4) GDPR) and
- The right to lodge a complaint with a data protection supervisory authority.

The supervisory authority responsible for the RKI is the Federal Commissioner for Data Protection and Freedom of Information, Graurheindorfer Straße 153, 53117 Bonn.

Please note that the RKI can only fulfil the rights mentioned above if data to which the asserted claims relate is processed on an ongoing basis. This would only be possible if personal data were stored after being transmitted to the RKI server system. This is not necessary to create the COVID vaccination certificates. For this reason, the aforementioned data protection rights under Art. 15, 16, 17, 18, 20 and 21 GDPR are largely redundant.

Last amended: 2 June 2021

