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Guidance
Using your NHS COVID Pass for travel abroad and at venues and settings in England

How to use the NHS COVID Pass to demonstrate your coronavirus (COVID-19) status when travelling abroad and domestically at venues and settings in England.

From:
   Department of Health and Social Care (/government/organisations/department-of-health-and-social-care)
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Applies to England

Guidance for Wales (https://gov.wales/use-nhs-covid-pass-attend-large-events-and-venues)

Guidance for Scotland (https://www.nhsinform.scot/covid-19-vaccine/after-your-vaccine/get-a-record-of-your-coronavirus-covid-19-vaccination-status)

Guidance for Northern Ireland (https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/services/coronavirus-covid-19-interim-proof-vaccination-document)

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COVID-19 status checks

It is no longer mandatory for venues to require attendees to demonstrate their COVID-19 status. However, some venues or events may still choose to require proof of COVID-19 status as a condition of entry to reduce risk for attendees and staff. You will be able to show vaccination status, a recent negative test or exemption through the NHS COVID Pass.

This page applies to England. See information about COVID certificates in Guernsey (https://covid19.gov.gg/guidance/vaccine/passports), Jersey (https://www.gov.je/Health/Coronavirus/Vaccine/Pages/CovidStatus.aspx) and the Isle of Man (https://covid19.gov.im/vaccination/nhs-covid-pass-for-isle-of-man-residents/).

NHS COVID Pass: what it is and how to get it

The NHS COVID Pass lets you share your coronavirus (COVID-19) status records or test COVID-19 status in a secure way.

It allows you to show others the details of your COVID-19 status:

- when travelling abroad to some countries or territories
- as a condition of entry at those venues or events that choose to use the service

You can get an NHS COVID Pass:

- digitally through the NHS App or online via NHS.UK

- as a letter sent to you in the post, for those who are not digitally enabled

You can find out the eligibility requirements on the NHS website.

Getting your digital NHS COVID Pass (https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/get-digital-covid-pass/)

Get your NHS COVID Pass letter (https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/covid-pass/get-your-covid-pass-letter/)

If you're in the UK armed forces, visit 'My health care hub' on the Defence Gateway (https://sts.defencegateway.mod.uk/Login.aspx?ReturnUrl=%2f%3fwa%3dwsignin1.0%26wtrealm%3dhttp%253a%252f%252fsso.defencegateway.mod.uk%252fadfs%252fservices%252ftrust%26wctx%3d5e67e618-1d9b-4865-b742-c2a2d601ebc3&wa=wsignin1.0&wtrealm=http%3a%2f%2fsso.defencegateway.mod.uk%2fadfs%2fservices%2ftrust&wctx=5e67e618-1d9b-4865-b742-c2a2d601ebc3) (login required) to find out how to get your NHS COVID Pass.

The NHS App is not the same as the NHS COVID-19 App.

If you believe your NHS COVID Pass has missing or incorrect vaccination records, please call 119 and ask to be referred to the Vaccine Data Resolution Service.

How to use the NHS COVID Pass at venues and events in England

This guidance is for visitors to venues and events that choose to check the COVID-19 status of attendees. There is separate guidance for organisations (https://www.gov.uk/guidance/carrying-out-covid-19-status-checks-at-your-venue-or-event).

It is no longer mandatory for certain high-risk events and venues to check the COVID-19 status of attendees. However, venues where large crowds gather or are in close contact may choose to continue to check the COVID-19 status of attendees and the workforce to keep everyone safer.

If venues decide to do this, they should tell you what you will need to show to access the event before you visit.

You may be asked to demonstrate your COVID-19 status to enter a venue that is opting to conduct COVID-19 status checks as a condition of entry. You should check the conditions of entry for venues you are visiting. You may be asked to demonstrate your COVID-19 status with proof of one of the following:

- you are vaccinated with 2 doses of an approved vaccine (or one of the single-dose Janssen vaccine) – we will keep this under review as boosters are rolled out
- you have completed a negative PCR test or negative rapid lateral flow test within the past 48 hours
- you are exempt from vaccination on the basis of a medical exemption or you have taken part in a clinical trial for a COVID-19 vaccine

You should take tests as late as possible before attending the event, ideally within 12 hours. This will strengthen the protection testing provides.

How to get tests

You can use NHS Test and Trace tests you already have at home or order rapid lateral flow tests (https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests). If you have taken a rapid lateral flow test at home you will need to report this online (https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing/test-results/report-a-rapid-lateral-flow-test-result/). You can only register tests supplied by NHS Test and Trace in the NHS COVID Pass.

How you can demonstrate your COVID-19 status

If you live in England, you can use the NHS COVID Pass to prove your COVID-19 status. The NHS COVID Pass provides valid proof of your COVID-19 status based on your COVID-19 vaccination details, test results, medical exemption or clinical trial participation.

A valid text or email confirmation from NHS Test and Trace (see the Reporting test results section below) can also be used as proof that you have completed a negative PCR test or negative rapid lateral flow test within the past 48 hours.

The venue or event may decide to check your COVID-19 status. If you cannot demonstrate your COVID-19 status, the venue may choose to deny you entry to the venue or event.

Visiting England as a resident of Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland, Jersey, Guernsey or the Isle of Man

If you live in Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland, Jersey, Guernsey or the Isle of Man then you can show certificates from these nations to prove your COVID-19 status as these will be recognised in England if you visit.

International visitors

If you were vaccinated in another country, you may show alternative proof of vaccination if this is accepted at the UK border. International visitors can also show a valid text or email confirmation of a negative rapid lateral flow or PCR test from NHS Test and Trace.

The domestic NHS COVID Pass does not recognise natural immunity. Proof of natural immunity should not be accepted as an alternative to proof of vaccination or a recent negative COVID test.

Reporting test results

You should report your test result, positive or negative, to have proof that you have completed it, to NHS Test and Trace.

You should report a rapid lateral flow test result online (https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result) or by calling 119.

You will then receive a text or email which you should display to the person checking that you have completed your test. A valid notification of your test result from NHS Test and Trace should include:

1. your name
2. your age or date of birth
3. the date the test sample was collected or received by the test provider
4. confirmation that the test was either a PCR test or a rapid lateral flow test
5. confirmation that the test result was negative

If you reported a negative result you will also receive access to the NHS COVID Pass. This will expire 48 hours after the time you took the test. You cannot report privately provided tests and must only use tests ordered from NHS Test and Trace.

The government has published its plan for living with COVID-19 (https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-response-living-with-covid-19).

This means:

- you are no longer legally required to self-isolate if you test positive for COVID-19 – the new guidance for people with COVID-19 and their contacts (https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-people-with-covid-19-and-their-contacts) advises people who test positive to stay at home and avoid contact with others
- you are no longer legally required to self-isolate if you are an unvaccinated close contact
- you are no longer advised to test for 7 days if you are a fully vaccinated close contact – the new guidance sets out precautions for reducing risk to yourself and others

How to use the NHS COVID Pass when travelling abroad

You can show the vaccination records in your NHS COVID Pass as proof of your COVID-19 status when travelling abroad.

Proof of recovery from prior COVID-19 infection is also shown – however, this cannot be used as evidence of your COVID-19 status when entering England.

You will also need to follow additional rules when travelling abroad.

You should register with the NHS App (https://www.nhs.uk/nhs-app/) before booking international travel.

Read more information on:

- travelling abroad during COVID-19 (https://www.gov.uk/guidance/travel-abroad-from-england-during-coronavirus-covid-19)
- travelling to England from another country during COVID-19 (https://www.gov.uk/guidance/travel-to-england-from-another-country-during-coronavirus-covid-19)

You should check that your first name and your surname on your passport match how they are displayed by your NHS COVID Pass at least 2 weeks before you travel. If the names are different, contact your GP practice to have your details updated.

If you have not been fully vaccinated, you should continue to follow the entry requirements of the country you are travelling to, such as proof of a negative COVID-19 test on arrival. You should carefully research the requirements of your destination country before travelling.

Further details on entry requirements can be found on the GOV.UK foreign travel advice pages (https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice) and on the websites of your destination country.

COVID-19 booster vaccinations

You should get your COVID-19 booster (https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/coronavirus-booster-vaccine/) as soon as you are eligible, but you do not need a COVID-19 booster vaccination to get an NHS COVID Pass for domestic use in England.

We will keep this under review as boosters are rolled out.

If you've received a booster vaccination it will show in your NHS COVID Pass for travel within 5 days. You'll see a 2D barcode for your full initial course of vaccinations, plus a record of your booster vaccination.

Your vaccinations will show in reverse order, with the most recent first. This is also the case if you download a PDF of your NHS COVID Pass for travel, or store it within the Apple Wallet or Google Pay Wallet.

If you're about to travel, you should download an updated PDF version of your NHS COVID Pass, or store an updated version in your Apple Wallet or Google Pay Wallet.

You'll also see your detailed booster vaccination information in the 'View COVID-19 records' section of the NHS COVID Pass within the NHS App and online service.

If you require non-digital proof of your booster vaccination for international travel, you can order an NHS COVID Pass letter via the NHS 119 service or via NHS.UK. Your letter will show a 2D barcode for each vaccination you've received, including your booster vaccination.

Some countries require travellers to demonstrate that they have received 2 doses of a COVID-19 approved vaccination within 180 days, or a booster dose no less than 14 days before entering the country.

> Your NHS COVID Pass can be scanned to check and validate your COVID-19 status in venues in 60 countries and territories, including those in the EU.
>
> Find out more about the EU Gateway (https://www.nhsx.nhs.uk/covid-19-response/eu-gateway/).

Residents in England who have received COVID-19 vaccinations overseas

If you live in England and have had one or more of your COVID-19 vaccinations administered overseas, you can have your vaccination details added to your NHS Record. You can then generate an NHS COVID Pass for domestic use and international travel if you meet certain certification requirements.

From 17 March, the overseas vaccination service is available to children aged 5 and above. Adding a child's overseas vaccination details to their NHS Record will ensure that:

- their GP has a record of their COVID-19 vaccinations
- the child gets any future vaccination advice, such as availability of booster doses

Children aged 5 to 11 cannot get an NHS COVID Pass. This is currently only available for those aged 12 and above.

Eligible vaccines

You can use this service if you've had one or more of these vaccines:

- Covaxin (Bharat Biotech)
- Covishield (Institute of India)

- Janssen
- Moderna
- Oxford/AstraZeneca
- Pfizer/BioNTech
- Sinopharm Beijing/BIBP
- SinoVac-CoronaVac

If you've received a Sinopharm vaccine, your evidence must show that it was manufactured by the Beijing Institute of Biological Products (BIBP). Other Sinopharm manufacturers are not accepted for this service.

If you've received Moderna, Oxford/AstraZeneca, Pfizer/BioNTech or Janssen, you can get your NHS COVID Pass digitally or as a letter sent in the post.

If you've received Sinopharm Beijing/BIBP, SinoVac-CoronaVac, Covishield or Covaxin, you can currently only get a digital NHS COVID Pass. You will not be able to get an NHS COVID Pass letter until late spring 2022.

International COVID-19 certification accepted at the UK border should also be accepted for entry by venues or events that have decided to voluntarily require use of the NHS COVID Pass.

The government will review additional vaccines as they achieve finalised status on the World Health Organization (WHO) Emergency Use List (EUL). There will be a delay between vaccines reaching finalised status on the WHO EUL and the overseas vaccination recording service being extended to accommodate these (for example, Novavax (Nuvaxovid) and Covovax).

Book an appointment to register your overseas vaccinations

To register your overseas vaccinations, you'll need to book an appointment at a selected list of vaccination centres across England.

Book an appointment to register your overseas vaccination with the NHS (https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/tell-NHS-about-coronavirus-vaccinations-abroad).

Staff are not able to register your overseas vaccinations unless you book in advance.

Details of your overseas vaccination will then be recorded in the National Immunisation Management System.

If you're registered with a GP in England and were vaccinated in Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland or the Isle of Man, you do not need to book an appointment at a vaccination centre.

If you need help using this service, contact the NHS COVID Pass service by telephoning:

- 119 from the UK
- +44 151 905 0119 from overseas (you'll be charged according to your carrier's rates)

Getting your NHS COVID Pass

Eligible overseas vaccinations will display within your NHS COVID Pass in the same way as vaccines administered under the UK vaccination programme. However, you may see some fields left blank for overseas vaccines.

Non-eligible overseas vaccinations will not generate an NHS COVID Pass.

Your NHS COVID Pass for international travel will show the vaccinations you have received. It may take up to 10 working days for vaccines to show in your NHS COVID Pass.

What the barcodes and expiry dates mean

On the digital version of your NHS COVID Pass for domestic use, you'll see a single barcode.

On your NHS COVID Pass for international travel you will see one 2D barcode for each vaccination dose.

You will see the barcodes either:

- within the NHS COVID Pass in the NHS App
- if you save or print a PDF of your NHS COVID Pass
- on the travel NHS COVID Pass letter

The expiry date does not apply to your vaccination status. Any expiry date refers only to the barcode and will update automatically in the digital version of the COVID Pass. The barcodes have expiry dates to protect your data privacy.

However, if you download and save or print a copy of your NHS COVID Pass, the expiry date will eventually show as expired and will not automatically refresh. You will need to log into the COVID Pass service to generate a new copy.

If you order a travel NHS COVID Pass letter via the NHS 119 service or online via NHS.UK, the barcodes in your letter will expire after 30 days. The domestic NHS COVID Pass letter also has a 30 day expiry.

Storing your NHS COVID Pass in Apple Wallet

If you get your NHS COVID Pass through the NHS App or Safari web browser using an Apple iPhone, you can store your NHS COVID Pass in Apple Wallet.

You can store separate passes in Apple Wallet for:

- entry into events and venues in England
- international travel

You can then show either the domestic or international NHS COVID Pass, even if your device is offline.

To add your NHS COVID Pass to the device's wallet, tap the 'Add to Apple Wallet' button within the NHS COVID Pass service.

If you store an offline version of your NHS COVID Pass into your Apple Wallet it will only be valid until the expiry date shown on the NHS COVID Pass. The expiry date will not refresh automatically. This means you will need to store an updated NHS COVID Pass to your Apple Wallet before you next plan to use it if your original NHS COVID Pass has or is due to expire.

Storing your NHS COVID Pass in Google Wallet (officially called Google Pay)

If you get your NHS COVID Pass through the NHS App or by using the Google Chrome web browser on an Android phone, you'll be able to store your NHS COVID Pass to your device.

You'll see the 'Google – save to phone' button within the NHS App. You can then show your NHS COVID-19 status at events and venues in England and for international travel.

The NHS COVID Pass will be saved on your Android phone home screen and also accessible in Google Pay. It is available to [Play Protect certified mobile devices (https://support.google.com/googleplay/answer/7165974)](https://support.google.com/googleplay/answer/7165974) running Android 5 or above.

You can use the NHS COVID Pass and store it using the Apple Wallet or Google Pay in the Welsh language. [Access your COVID Pass using the NHS website (https://covid-status.service.nhsx.nhs.uk)](https://covid-status.service.nhsx.nhs.uk) and click the 'Cymraeg' button at the top of the screen to change the language from English to Welsh.

What the NHS COVID Pass letter tells you: translated versions and alternative formats

There are 2 NHS COVID Pass letters:

- one letter is for travel abroad
- one letter is for entry to domestic events and venues

If you request an NHS COVID Pass letter, the letter you receive will be in English.

You can request a leaflet about the content of the letter and what it tells you in other languages and alternative formats.

You will still need to show the original English letter (not the supporting leaflet) to demonstrate your COVID-19 status, for example when:

- travelling abroad
- attending a venue or event in England where you are asked to prove your COVID-19 status to enter

Translated versions

Read [translated versions about what the NHS COVID Pass letter tells you (https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-vaccination-status-what-your-confirmation-letter-tells-you)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-vaccination-status-what-your-confirmation-letter-tells-you).

Easy read

Read an [easy-read guide about what the NHS COVID Pass letter tells you (https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-vaccination-status-what-your-confirmation-letter-tells-you-easy-read)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-vaccination-status-what-your-confirmation-letter-tells-you-easy-read).

Braille and large print

You can get a [Braille or large print version of the NHS COVID Pass letter via the NHS website (https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/covid-status-letter/)](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/covid-status-letter/) or by calling 119 (select the 'NHS COVID Pass service').

Audio format

You can get an [audio version of the NHS COVID Pass letter via the NHS website (https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/covid-status-letter/)](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/covid-status-letter/) or by calling 119. Your letter and the audio file on a CD will be sent directly to you. It should arrive within 7 working days.

British Sign Language (BSL)

Watch a video about the NHS COVID Pass letter for travel abroad in BSL, not including personal details.

[Watch a video about the NHS COVID Pass letter for travel abroad in BSL (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tWtB7pkbWOY)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tWtB7pkbWOY)

Watch a video about the NHS COVID Pass letter for domestic use in BSL, not including personal details.

[Watch a video about the NHS COVID Pass letter for domestic use in BSL (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K7GQM20O78s)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K7GQM20O78s)

If you cannot get an NHS COVID Pass letter

If the 119 service cannot provide you with a letter, there may be some information that is either missing or incorrect. The service will write to inform you if this is the case.

If you cannot get an NHS COVID Pass letter: translated versions and alternative formats

The letter you receive in the post will be in English. You can [check your vaccination record and follow instructions in various translations of the letter (https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-vaccination-status-if-you-cannot-get-a-confirmation-letter)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-vaccination-status-if-you-cannot-get-a-confirmation-letter), not including your personal information, in different languages. These are to help people who read those languages.

You can also access the information in a range of alternative formats.

Easy read

Read an [easy-read guide about what to do if you cannot get an NHS COVID Pass letter (https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-vaccination-status-if-you-cannot-get-a-confirmation-letter-easy-read)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-vaccination-status-if-you-cannot-get-a-confirmation-letter-easy-read).

Braille and large print

To get this letter in Braille or large print, please call 119 (select the 'NHS COVID Pass service') or [order the letter online via the NHS website (https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/covid-status-letter/)](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/covid-status-letter/).

British Sign Language (BSL)

Watch a video about this letter in BSL.

[Watch a video about this letter in BSL (https://youtu.be/U5JUw0Z_Svw)](https://youtu.be/U5JUw0Z_Svw).

If you're unable to get vaccinated for medical reasons

There are a small number of exemptions for individuals who have a medical reason which means they should not be vaccinated, and in some cases should not test either. Medical exemption status cannot be based on testing alone.

You can apply for proof of evidence that you have a medical reason why you should not be vaccinated and/or tested. If you are eligible for proof of medical exemption, or a carer obtains this on your behalf, you will be able to use the domestic NHS COVID Pass wherever you need to prove your COVID-19 status.

Venues or events which choose to check visitors' COVID-19 status as a condition of entry may require you to show the NHS COVID Pass. The NHS COVID Pass will not show that you have a medical exemption, only that you have a valid domestic NHS COVID Pass. Businesses operating COVID-19 status checks are advised to clearly communicate their requirements to visitors.

You can find out more information including [how to apply for the NHS COVID Pass to prove that you're unable to be vaccinated and/or get tested (https://www.gov.uk/guidance/covid-19-medical-exemptions-proving-you-are-unable-to-get-vaccinated)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/covid-19-medical-exemptions-proving-you-are-unable-to-get-vaccinated).

Protecting your data

Your COVID-19 status is held securely within the NHS App. It can only be accessed via a validated [NHS login (https://www.nhs.uk/nhs-services/online-services/nhs-log-in/)](https://www.nhs.uk/nhs-services/online-services/nhs-log-in/). The NHS COVID Pass shows your COVID-19 vaccination status in the form of a 2D barcode and allows you to view the details of your COVID-19 vaccination record.

Your NHS COVID Pass letter that you request via 119 has been produced and printed with a range of embedded security features to help prevent fraud.

Read more in these privacy policies about how the NHS COVID Pass uses your information and about your data rights:

- [NHS App privacy policy (https://www.nhs.uk/nhs-services/online-services/nhs-app/nhs-app-legal-and-cookies/nhs-app-privacy-policy/)](https://www.nhs.uk/nhs-services/online-services/nhs-app/nhs-app-legal-and-cookies/nhs-app-privacy-policy/)
- [NHS COVID Pass privacy notice (https://www.nhsx.nhs.uk/covid-19-response/covid-19-vaccination-status-service-privacy-notice/)](https://www.nhsx.nhs.uk/covid-19-response/covid-19-vaccination-status-service-privacy-notice/)

Residents in England who have taken part in COVID-19 vaccine clinical trials

Domestic use in England

If you took part in a clinical trial within England you can use the NHS App or [NHS.UK (https://www.nhs.uk/)](https://www.nhs.uk/) to get an NHS COVID Pass for domestic use in England.

Your NHS COVID Pass can be used to demonstrate your COVID-19 status in England. Participants should contact their clinical trial site if they cannot yet access their domestic NHS COVID Pass.

International travel

On 8 October the [government announced that clinical trial participants of relevant COVID-19 trials would be eligible to receive additional approved vaccine doses to facilitate travel abroad (https://www.gov.uk/government/news/clinical-trialists-to-be-offered-top-up-vaccine-doses)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/clinical-trialists-to-be-offered-top-up-vaccine-doses).

Relevant trials include the Novavax (Nuvaxovid), Valneva, Medicago and Com-Cov2 trials. Further information on the offer can be found by visiting the [National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) website (https://bepartofresearch.nihr.ac.uk/Vaccine-studies/Latest-vaccine-news/index)](https://bepartofresearch.nihr.ac.uk/Vaccine-studies/Latest-vaccine-news/index).

Clinical trial participants who have received additional doses of approved vaccines will see those doses in their NHS COVID Pass for travel via the NHS App and online via [NHS.UK (https://www.nhs.uk/)](https://www.nhs.uk/). These doses will show in your travel pass alongside your trial vaccinations, with the most recent vaccination received appearing first.

The doses records can take from 1 to 5 working days to appear in the NHS COVID Pass.

If you need a non-digital NHS COVID Pass for travel, the NHS COVID Pass letter also includes additional 'top up' approved vaccinations. You can ask for this via the NHS 119 service or via [NHS.UK (https://www.nhs.uk/)](https://www.nhs.uk/). The letter should take up to 7 days to arrive after you order it.

Clinical trial participants who have not received additional doses of approved vaccines

If you took part in a clinical trial within England which was 'unblinded' (you were informed of the vaccine used), then you should be able to obtain an NHS COVID Pass for travel if your trial site has uploaded vaccination information onto the NHS vaccine database. If your vaccine records are available and uploaded, then you will see these in your NHS COVID Pass for travel, with your most recent vaccine first.

Participants should contact their clinical trial site if they cannot yet access their travel pass. Before you travel abroad, check the entry rules for any country you want to go to.

If you took part in a clinical trial within England which was 'blinded' (you were not informed of the vaccine used), it is recommended that you consider other options for demonstrating your COVID-19 status when travelling abroad, such as additional testing.

All UK residents who have taken part or are taking part in clinical trials can follow the same rules as those fully vaccinated when returning to the UK from abroad.

[Check the rules on entering England from abroad (https://www.gov.uk/guidance/travel-to-england-from-another-country-during-coronavirus-covid-19)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/travel-to-england-from-another-country-during-coronavirus-covid-19)

Children

NHS COVID Pass for domestic use in England

Children under 18 do not have to demonstrate their COVID-19 status for entry to domestic events or venues in England.

NHS COVID Pass digital service for international travel

Children aged 12 and over can get a digital NHS COVID Pass for international travel.

A digital NHS COVID Pass will:

- provide a record of COVID-19 vaccinations received
- show evidence of recovery for 180 days following a positive NHS PCR test

See 'How to use the NHS COVID Pass when travelling abroad' above.

You can order a digital NHS COVID Pass:

- via the NHS.UK website (https://covid-status.service.nhsx.nhs.uk) for those aged 12 and over (as a PDF you can download or print)
- via the NHS App (https://www.nhs.uk/nhs-app) for those aged 13 and over (age restrictions apply for use of the App)

To get an NHS COVID Pass, your child will first need to register for an NHS login. Once they have logged into the NHS COVID Pass service and clicked on 'Travel', they will be asked to prove their identity. They can do this themselves (or a parent or guardian can help them).

Your child will need to:

- register for an NHS login using their own email address and enter their details as recorded at the GP
- take a photo of their photo ID (such as their passport)
- record a short video of their face saying the 4 digits as shown on screen (this is to provide a physical match to their photo ID)

Once your child has submitted this information to prove their identity (or you've helped them to do it), it will then be checked to ensure a correct match to your child's NHS record.

This usually takes a few hours, but during busy periods may take a few days. You should ensure that you register and prove the identity of your child well in advance of international travel.

NHS COVID Pass letter for international travel

Fully vaccinated children aged 12 to 15 can get an NHS COVID Pass letter for international travel. A person with legal responsibility for a child aged 12 to 15 (such as a parent or guardian) can also request the letter on their behalf.

This is available for children who have received a full course of vaccinations. It is unavailable to those who have received an incomplete course of vaccination (such as one dose of a 2-dose vaccine).

The NHS COVID Pass letter for international travel is sent in the post and can be requested either:

- online at Get your NHS COVID pass letter (https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/covid-pass/get-your-covid-pass-letter/)
- by calling the NHS 119 telephone service to request an NHS COVID Pass travel letter

The NHS COVID Pass letter will be posted to the address held on the child's NHS record (the address held by their GP) and will show all the vaccinations they have received, including any boosters. The NHS COVID Pass letter should arrive within 7 working days.

The NHS COVID Pass letter service is for international vaccination status only and will not show recovery or negative test results.

Your GP cannot provide you with this letter or service.

This NHS COVID Pass letter service is not for use at domestic venues and settings in England as under 18s are exempt from domestic certification requirements.

It is recommended that you follow the entry requirements of the country you are travelling to. Further details on entry requirements can be found on the GOV.UK foreign travel advice pages (https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice) and on the websites of your destination country.

Published 7 May 2021
Last updated 18 March 2022 + show all updates

1. 18 March 2022

   Removed information about the passenger locator form, as people entering the UK no longer need to complete it.

2. 17 March 2022

   Children aged 5 and above can now have details of eligible COVID-19 vaccinations they have received overseas added to their NHS Record.

3. 2 March 2022

   Updated to provide information on how to contact the Vaccination Data Resolution Service.

4. 24 February 2022

   Updated to reflect new government guidance on self isolation policy if you test positive for COVID-19.

5. 18 February 2022

   From 18 February, residents in England who have received one or more of the following vaccines can have them added to their NHS Record to generate an NHS COVID Pass: Sinopharm Beijing/BIBP, SinoVac-CoronaVac, Covishield (Institute of India) or Covaxin (Bharat Biotech).

6. 1 February 2022

   Added details about the information that will be needed to prove the identity of children aged 12 and over to get a digital NHS COVID Pass for international travel (available from 3 February 2022).

7. 27 January 2022

   Updated to reflect it is no longer a legal requirement for venues or events to check the COVID-19 status of attendees as a condition of entry.

8. 25 January 2022

   From 3 February, children aged 12 and over will be able to get a digital NHS COVID Pass for international travel.

9. 24 January 2022

   Updated video about the NHS COVID Pass letter for travel abroad in British Sign Language (BSL).

10. 19 January 2022

    Updated 'What to do if you get a positive test result' section to reflect change in self-isolation rules - people who test positive can stop self-isolating on day 6 if they have negative rapid lateral flow test results on days 5 and 6. Added a reference to the change in rules on 27 January, when it will no longer be mandatory for venues to check the COVID-19 status of attendees as a condition of entry.

11. 18 January 2022

    Added video about the NHS COVID Pass letter for domestic use in British Sign Language (BSL).

12. 11 January 2022

Updated the section 'What to do if you receive a positive test result' to reflect that from 11 January, asymptomatic people in England with a positive lateral flow test are no longer advised to take a confirmatory PCR test to confirm they have COVID-19.

13. 7 January 2022

Updated the section 'What the NHS COVID Pass letter tells you: translated versions and alternative formats' to reflect that there are 2 NHS COVID Pass letters (one for travel, one for domestic use). Updated the section 'How to use the NHS COVID Pass when travelling abroad' to add information about the passenger locator form.

14. 4 January 2022

Updated the section on how to use the NHS COVID Pass when travelling abroad to reflect that proof of prior infection cannot be used as evidence of your COVID-19 status when entering England.

15. 24 December 2021

Guidance updated to reflect changes to the self-isolation advice for people who have received a positive COVID-19 test result.

16. 14 December 2021

Added call-out to reflect the NHS COVID Pass digital service will be offline from 10pm on Tuesday 14 December due to planned maintenance.

17. 14 December 2021

Updated to correct guidance in the 'Residents in England who have taken part in COVID-19 vaccine clinical trials' section.

18. 13 December 2021

Added guidance on new mandatory certification rules on visiting certain venues and events coming into force on Wednesday 15 December if approved by Parliament.

19. 13 December 2021

Updated to reflect that fully vaccinated children aged 12 to 15 can request an NHS COVID Pass letter for international travel.

20. 12 December 2021

Updated to reflect that fully vaccinated children aged 12 to 15 can request an NHS COVID Pass letter for international travel from 9am on 13 December.

21. 12 December 2021

Updated to reflect that fully vaccinated children aged 12 to 15 can request an NHS COVID Pass letter for international travel.

22. 10 December 2021

Updated to reflect that you can order an NHS COVID Pass letter to show proof of your booster vaccination for international travel.

23. 9 December 2021

Added the section 'Residents in England who have received COVID-19 vaccinations overseas'.

24. 6 December 2021

Updated information for residents in England who have taken part in COVID-19 vaccine clinical trials.

25. 6 December 2021

Added information about how to store your NHS COVID Pass in Google Pay Wallet.

26. 26 November 2021

Updated to reflect the latest information on how to obtain your NHS COVID Pass in digital or letter format via the NHS.UK website.

27. 19 November 2021

From 19 November, you can see details of your COVID-19 booster vaccination in your NHS COVID Pass.

28. 2 November 2021

Added information about COVID-19 booster vaccinations: The NHS COVID Pass for travel does not currently include COVID-19 booster vaccinations. You do not need a COVID-19 booster vaccination to get an NHS COVID Pass for domestic use in England. Also updated to reflect the UK linking with the EU Gateway. Your NHS COVID Pass can be scanned to check and validate your COVID-19 vaccination status in venues in over 40 countries, including those in the EU.

29. 4 October 2021

Updated content to reflect changes to international travel rules on 4 October 2021 (the red, amber, green traffic light system was replaced by a single red list of countries and simplified travel measures for arrivals from the rest of the world).

30. 1 October 2021

Added information on using the NHS COVID Pass if you're unable to get vaccinated and/or tested for medical reasons.

31. 23 September 2021

From 23 September, you will be able to store your NHS COVID Pass for international travel in Apple Wallet, even if your device is offline.

32. 7 September 2021

Updated the 'Children' section: children under 18 do not have to demonstrate their COVID-19 status for entry to domestic events or venues in England. Children aged 16 or over can get an NHS COVID Pass for travel but should follow the entry requirements of the country they are travelling to.

33. 26 August 2021

Added a link to information about COVID certificates in the Isle of Man.

34. 20 August 2021

Updated to clarify that if you've been vaccinated in Scotland, to obtain your NHS COVID Pass you must be resident in England and registered with a GP in England.

35. 20 August 2021

Updated to confirm that you can get NHS COVID Pass if you have been fully vaccinated in England, Wales or Scotland. Updated information for those participating in vaccination clinical trials. Added the phone number for contacting the NHS COVID Pass service from overseas.

36. 9 August 2021

Added: 'If you're in the UK armed forces, visit 'My health care hub' on the Defence Gateway (login required) to find out how to get your NHS COVID Pass.'

37. 5 August 2021

Updated the BSL guide (video) for people who have received an NHS COVID Pass letter.

38. 31 July 2021

Updated to add a link to guidance for people fully vaccinated by the USA or EU.

39. 29 July 2021

Updated to reflect that proof of natural immunity shown by a positive PCR test can be used to demonstrate COVID-19 status when travelling abroad; the NHS COVID Pass can be stored used the Apple Wallet when using an iPhone or iPad; and those who received the Novavax vaccine as part of a formally approved vaccine trial, can now obtain the NHS COVID Pass.

40. 26 July 2021

Updated to remove information on the Events Research Programme trials, which ended on 25 July 2021.

41. 16 July 2021

Updated to reflect that from Monday 19 July, you may be asked to demonstrate your COVID-19 status as a condition of entry to a venue or event in England. Added the conditions of obtaining an NHS COVID Pass for use at domestic events in England.

42. 9 July 2021

   Added links to guidance about COVID-19 vaccine certification in Guernsey, Jersey and Northern Ireland.

43. 7 July 2021

   Updated to reflect that the NHS COVID Pass letter has new branding, and that a full course of approved vaccinations now includes the single-dose Janssen vaccine.

44. 21 June 2021

   Updated to reflect that from 21 June 2021, the NHS service to demonstrate your COVID-19 vaccination status is now called the NHS COVID Pass. Also added that people taking part in event trials as part of the Events Research Programme will also be requested to use the NHS COVID Pass.

45. 15 June 2021

   Added video in British Sign Language about what to do if you cannot get a post-vaccination letter.

46. 11 June 2021

   Added information about what to do if you cannot get a post-vaccination status letter.

47. 9 June 2021

   You can now request a COVID-19 vaccination status letter to be posted to you via the NHS.UK website.

48. 21 May 2021

   Added link to easy-read version of the COVID-19 post-vaccination confirmation letter.

49. 18 May 2021

   Updated information on how to access your COVID-19 vaccination status on the NHS website and NHS app.

50. 17 May 2021

   Updated to add a link to a video about the post-vaccination confimation letter in BSL.

51. 17 May 2021

   This page has been updated to reflect the latest information on the COVID-19 vaccination status service and includes information on obtaining information in foreign languages and alternative formats.

52. 13 May 2021

   Updated to reflect that if you call 119 to request a letter about your vaccination status, we expect the letter to take up to 7 working days to reach you.

53. 11 May 2021

   Updated to reflect that you must wait at least 5 working days after you've completed your course of the vaccine before asking for a letter confirming your vaccination status to be posted to you. The letter can take up to 5 working days to reach you. It will be sent automatically to the address registered with your GP.

54. 7 May 2021

   Updated to reflect that if you're aged 13 to 15, you'll need to contact your GP surgery to request access to GP online services before you can use the NHS App.

55. 7 May 2021

   Updated to reflect that you should register with the NHS App before booking your international travel.

56. 7 May 2021

   First published.

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