Data protection information about the digital COVID certificate

In brief: What is the digital COVID certificate?

People who are fully vaccinated against the coronavirus, people who have tested negative, and people who can prove that they have recovered from a COVID-19 infection are exempt from certain coronavirus restrictions, and are once again able to travel more freely in the European Union (EU). If you want to easily carry proof of your vaccination, test result or recovery with you at all times, you can receive a digital COVID certificate. The digital COVID certificate is recognised as proof when travelling within the EU.

1. A digital COVID certificate will be issued to you **upon request.**

2. You will then receive a **printed document with a QR code**. The QR code contains your COVID certificate with the data about your coronavirus vaccination, your test result or your recovery in encoded form. 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, that you have tested negative, or that you have recovered from a COVID-19 infection.

   To protect against forged certificates, each digital COVID certificate is electronically signed by the Robert Koch Institute (RKI). For this purpose, your data about your coronavirus vaccination, your test or your recovery is transmitted by the entity issuing your COVID certificate to an RKI server, where it is electronically signed before being deleted. The QR code also contains this electronic signature. The electronic signature makes it possible to confirm the authenticity and validity of the COVID certificate during a verification.

   When verifying the digital COVID certificate, your data and the electronic signature are read from the QR code. Only the absolutely necessary data will be displayed to the person performing the check. That means your name, date of birth and whether the certificate is a test certificate or not. In the case of test certificates, the type of test and the time of sampling are then also displayed so that the person performing the check can tell how old the test is.

3. You can **also carry your digital COVID certificate with you on your smartphone**. To do this, you can scan the printed QR code with an app (CovPass or Corona-Warn-App) in order to save the data about your coronavirus vaccination, your test or your recovery on your smartphone. You can then use the QR code in the app as proof, just like the printed QR code.

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

When you receive your printed COVID certificate, please check that the name printed on it matches the spelling on your identification document.

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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 technically creating the COVID certificates. 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.

The entity from which you receive your COVID certificate (e.g. vaccination centre, doctor's practice, testing point, pharmacy) is responsible for collecting and transmitting your data to the RKI in order to create a COVID certificate.

2. Is using the COVID certificate voluntary?
Using the COVID certificate is voluntary. It is entirely up to you whether you have a COVID certificate created after a vaccination, a test, or in connection with your recovery, and whether you add a 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, have tested negative or have recovered from a COVID-19 infection.

COVID certificates can be used both in Germany and when travelling in the EU as proof of vaccination against the coronavirus, of negative test results, and of recovery.

The legal basis of the processing for creating a COVID 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) and, from 1 July 2021, in conjunction with Art. 4(1) (Vaccination Certificates), Art. 5(1) (Test Certificates) and Art. 6(1) (Certificates of Recovery) of the EU Digital COVID Certificate Regulation.

3. Why will my data be processed?
In order to create a digital COVID certificate, the RKI needs to add what is known as an electronic signature to your data about your coronavirus vaccination, your test or your recovery. 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 responsible entity from which you receive your COVID certificate (e.g. vaccination centres, doctors, pharmacies and, in the case of test certificates, also test centres) records your vaccination data, test data or recovery data for the signature, depending on the type of certificate, and transmits it securely and in encrypted form to the RKI. The RKI signs the data electronically and sends it back to the entity. Afterwards, you will receive the COVID certificate in the form of the printed QR code.

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

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4. What data is processed?

To technically create a digital COVID certificate, the RKI only processes the data that is absolutely necessary to issue and electronically sign the COVID certificate. All data will also be provided, in German and English, on the printed COVID certificate and in the digital COVID certificate stored in the CovPass app or the Corona-Warn-App.

a. General information

All COVID certificates contain the following data:
- Last name, first name and date of birth of the certificate holder
- The RKI's electronic signature
- Unique identifier of the individual COVID certificate

The unique identifier of a COVID certificate does not contain any information about the certificate holder.

b. Data about your coronavirus vaccination

A vaccination certificate contains the general information and the following data about your coronavirus vaccination:
- Information about the vaccine (disease, vaccine, product, manufacturer)
- Vaccination information (dose number, total doses, date of vaccination, country, issuer).

c. Data about your test result

A test certificate contains the general information and the following data about your test result:
- Information about the test (disease tested for, type of test, product, manufacturer)
- Information about the testing procedure (date and time of the test, location of the testing centre)
- Negative test result.

d. Data about your recovery

Recovery is inferred based on proof of a prior positive test result. A certificate of recovery contains the general information and the following data about your recovery:
- Information about the test (disease tested for, type of test, product, manufacturer)
- Information about the testing procedure (date and time of the test, location of the testing centre)
- Positive test result.

5. When will your data be deleted?

The RKI will not permanently store data about your coronavirus vaccination, a test or your recovery. All data involving vaccinations, tests and recovery from the coronavirus will be deleted at the RKI without undue delay after the individual COVID certificate has been created.

Mit dem Betrieb und der Wartung des Serversystems hat das RKI die KDO Service GmbH (KDO) beauftragt. KDO verarbeitet personenbezogene Daten im Auftrag und auf Weisung des RKI (als sog. Auftragsverarbeiter). Zur Gewährleistung der datenschutzrechtlichen Anforderungen hat das RKI mit KDO einen entsprechenden Vertrag abgeschlossen.

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6. **Who will receive your data?**

   If, in the situations where it is required by law, other individuals or entities use an official verification application to scan and read a COVID certificate in the form of a QR code (e.g. as proof of your vaccination, negative test result, or recovery and therefore your entitlement to certain exemptions under coronavirus restrictions or when travelling abroad within the EU), the verification application will indicate whether the COVID certificate presented is valid. If the certificate is valid, the name and date of birth of the certificate holder will also be disclosed, as will whether or not it is a test certificate. In the case of test certificates, the time of sampling will then also be displayed so that the person performing the check can tell how old the test is. The name and date of birth of the certificate holder are displayed so that the person performing the check can compare this information with proof of identity (e.g. passport or ID card). Your details will not be stored in the verification application.

   The RKI has commissioned the company KDO Service GmbH (KDO) to operate and maintain the server system for technically creating the COVID certificates. 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 and 18 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 certificates. For this reason, the aforementioned data protection rights under Art. 15, 16, 17 and 18 GDPR are largely redundant.

   Last amended: 21 June 2021

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