



FAQs – Area of application of the COVID certificate

Date:

23.June 2021

The COVID certificate allows people to resume certain activities in a transition phase. It allows anyone to prove that they are either protected against the virus (vaccinated or recovered), or that it is highly unlikely that they are infectious (recently tested).

The Federal Council's **line of action** comprises

1. **Everyday settings**, such as public transport, retail, workplaces and training facilities, where **use** of the COVID certificate is **not planned** in the ordinance (**GREEN**)
2. Bars and restaurants; trade fairs; leisure, sport and entertainment venues, such as theatres, cinemas, casinos, swimming pools, clubs

In these settings, the certificate **may** be used

- either to prevent limits on capacity
 - or to exempt people from requirements, such as mandatory mask-wearing (**AMBER**)
3. Settings where the **certificate will be a condition** of opening **for the time being**. These are
 - international passenger transport
 - major events and
 - nightclubs/dance events (**RED**)
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1. Can an establishment on the amber list demand a COVID certificate to allow children entry?

The framework conditions for establishments on the amber list are set out in the COVID-19 Special Situation Ordinance, where the age limit of 16 applies. A restaurant cannot therefore demand a certificate for children under 16.

Further information:

Federal Office of Public Health, Communication, www.bag.admin.ch

This publication is also available in German, French and Italian.

2. Can tourists who have been vaccinated with a vaccine that is not authorised in Switzerland and who complied with Switzerland's entry requirements also gain entry to local events/establishments on the red list?

If a vaccinated person enters the country with a certificate or supporting document that is already recognised by Switzerland, they can gain entry to major events on the red list.

Otherwise, they must get tested in order to gain entry to a trade fair or other major event, and can therefore get a COVID certificate for people who have been tested.

3. Do face-to-face consultations belong on the green or amber list?

Face-to-face consultations belong on the green list. However, the federal government points out that the rules on hygiene and social distancing will continue to apply in these settings until further notice.

4. On which list are leisure activities organised by private providers?

The organiser (e.g. restaurant, leisure provider) decides whether they wish to demand a COVID certificate and thus to dispense with precautionary measures, or whether they would prefer not to opt for selective admission and to retain the existing precautionary measures. The federal government does not issue any recommendations in this regard.

MAJOR EVENTS (RED)

5. Will the certificates currently permitted for people who are vaccinated, recovered or who have tested negative e.g. for major events still be valid in Switzerland once the COVID certificate is available?

No. From 26 June, the only permitted certificates will be the Swiss COVID certificate or a recognised certificate issued by another country.

6. Do children need to present a certificate at major events?

No. The admission regulations for major events envisage granting entry to all children and young people aged 16 or under without a COVID certificate. This is because as vaccination for this age group will only be approved from the summer, it would not be possible to deploy certificates of vaccination ahead of phase 3 (normalisation phase). In addition, as children and young people are demonstrably less susceptible to SARS-CoV-2 and are less likely to transmit it, the risk to them is comparatively low.

7. Is evidence of a positive rapid antigen test also sufficient to allow entry to major events in Switzerland for people who have recovered from coronavirus?

No. People who have recovered from coronavirus and whose infection was confirmed just with a rapid antigen test cannot be issued with a COVID certificate of recovery even for use in Switzerland.

People who only tested positive with a rapid antigen test are advised to get a PCR test, the costs of which will be covered. If the infection was some time ago, people who have recovered can get tested or get a single dose of vaccine in order to get a COVID certificate.

8. Why is there no specific Swiss certificate for people who have recovered that also includes the rapid antigen test, e.g. for admission to major events in Switzerland?

A certificate of recovery that incorporates rapid antigen tests is not compatible with EU standards. Introducing a new type of certificate for domestic use only would also have been complex and costly in terms of technical implementation and would have meant that such a certificate would only have been available in August. If the epidemiological situation continues to improve, the certificate would also barely have been used anymore in Switzerland in the normalisation phase.

Further information:

Federal Office of Public Health, Communication, www.bag.admin.ch

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9. What is the 'certificate light'?

The 'certificate light' is a minimal data version of the existing COVID certificate. In the app, holders are provided with a function allowing them to generate a copy of the certificate without any health data for use in Switzerland. This 'light' version of the COVID certificate was called for by the Federal Data Protection and Information Commissioner and will be available from mid-July. It is designed to ensure that third parties in Switzerland will only be able to check first and last name, date of birth and certificate validity with self-developed verifier apps, but not the holder's status (vaccinated, tested, recovered) or the name of the vaccine they received.

10. Do event organisers that offer on-site testing also have to issue a certificate?

Organisers offering on-site tests must also issue certificates as they check them at the entrance.

11. Will a 'certificate light' suffice for major events?

Yes, a valid COVID 'certificate light' is sufficient to attend major events as it contains the relevant information.

COVID CERTIFICATE OF RECOVERY

12. The Federal Office of Information Technology, Systems and Telecommunication announced on 14 June that people who have recovered from coronavirus can now order their COVID certificate. What does that mean exactly?

The application form has been available on the cantonal websites since 14 June. People who have recovered can fill out this form in just a few steps and will be rapidly notified as to whether they are entitled to a certificate.

People who have recovered from coronavirus and whose infection was confirmed with a rapid antigen test will be informed that they cannot obtain a COVID certificate proving recovered status as a PCR test is required.

13. How can the 60,500 or so people affected by this obtain a COVID certificate?

Since 1 June, it has been possible to get the result of a rapid antigen test confirmed with a PCR test free of charge, and the latter can be used to obtain a COVID certificate.

However, you can also get tested or vaccinated to be issued with a COVID certificate. According to the Federal Vaccination Commission, people who have recovered can be vaccinated four weeks after having a COVID-19 infection.

14. If someone wants to get a negative test to attend two major events in the space of a week, will the costs of two rapid antigen tests per week be covered?

The costs of up to one rapid antigen test per day are covered.

GENERAL

15. What would it mean for the COVID certificate if the recently announced referendum against the legal basis for the certificate is successful?

The provision on the COVID certificate in the COVID-19 Act (Art. 6a) is valid until the end of 2022. If the initiative is successful, there will be a vote. And if the bill is rejected in the popular vote, the COVID-19 Ordinance on certificates will no longer apply and it will no longer be possible to issue COVID certificates. We don't yet know when such a vote will take place.

Further information:

Federal Office of Public Health, Communication, www.bag.admin.ch

This publication is also available in German, French and Italian.

16. According to the Federal Commission for Vaccination, the protection afforded by mRNA vaccines should be extended to 12 months. Do people who are vaccinated have to request a new certificate if the validity period of the COVID certificate for vaccinated people changes due to new scientific data?

The validity period of COVID certificates is automatically calculated and adjusted in the app on the basis of the date the last dose was administered. This also applies to any changes to the validity period of tests.

17. Can COVID certificates for foreign travel also be issued for children who have either been tested or recovered?

Children can also be issued with a COVID certificate of testing or recovery. The certificates of all family members can be stored in a single app.

18. Are alternative certificates still permitted from the beginning of July?

From 1 July, the federal government works on the assumption that anyone who wants a COVID certificate will have received one. From this date, only COVID certificates will be permitted as supporting documents for the areas of application in Switzerland. This applies to cases set out in the COVID-19 Special Situation Ordinance, so e.g. events, cinemas, theatres and restaurants if they wish to restrict entry to those who are vaccinated, have tested negative or recovered.

In international travel and in the context of contact quarantine, alternative supporting documents are still possible.

Further information:

Federal Office of Public Health, Communication, www.bag.admin.ch

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