

Overview of Canadian COVID-19 Proof of Vaccination

1. Overview

The Government of Canada, in collaboration with the 13 Canadian provinces and territories, has developed a standardized, secure and verifiable Canadian COVID-19 proof of vaccination. The Canadian proof of vaccination contains a record of the holder's COVID-19 vaccination history, which can be used to support international travel.

The purpose of this document is to provide an overview of the Canadian COVID-19 proof of vaccination, which is based on the SMART Health Card framework, as well as a common look and feel, including style guidelines and details about the data elements collected.

While all travellers are encouraged to use the standardized Canadian COVID-19 proof of vaccination, once available, it is expected that there will be a transition period during which some individuals will continue to use their original, non-standardized COVID-19 vaccination records, which were issued immediately following the receipt of each vaccine dose.

2 Canadian COVID-19 Proof of Vaccination based on the SMART Health Card Framework

The Canadian COVID-19 proof of vaccination is based on the **Vaccine Credential Initiative's (VCI) SMART Health Card framework**, and provides the necessary information on the bearer's COVID-19 vaccination history for border officials to make a determination based on their respective entry requirements.

The Canadian COVID-19 proof of vaccination is a **secure and verifiable health record** that contains user identity and health information issued by the provinces and territories.

Benefits of this approach include:

- **Enduring** – It is a neutral factual document
- **Flexible** – Verifiers set the rules of entry based on local public health authorities
- **Maximizes Accessibility** – Available in both paper and digital format
- **Common Look and Feel** – makes it easier to recognize Canadian proof of vaccination at foreign borders

3 Data Elements in the Canadian COVID-19 Proof of Vaccination

All Canadian COVID-19 proof of vaccination, based on the SMART Health Cards specifications, will include the following data elements:

- Given Name
- Family Name
- Birth Date
- Vaccine Product
- Occurrence date (for each dose)
- Vaccine lot number
- Number of vaccines administered
- Issuing province or territory (where applicable)
- Country of issuance

Additional data elements can be found within the QR code of the Canadian COVID-19 proof of vaccination. These data elements are not visible in the human readable text.

- Performer Name (province, territory or foreign jurisdiction)
- Manufacturer
- Security
- Subpotency
- Status

4 Verifying the Canadian COVID-19 Proof of Vaccination

4.1 Authenticity

To confirm if the proof of vaccination was issued by recognized provinces and territories or federal agencies of Canada:

Verifiers can use the VCI Directory/Common Trust Network to confirm registered issuers.

- At present, Canada is still in the process of onboarding its provinces and territories to the VCI Directory or Common Trust Network (which will be merging into one trust entity shortly).

Alternatively, the verifier will need to know Canada's white-listed public URLs from trusted Canadian issuers (federal, provincial or territorial governments).

4.2 Smart Health Card Compliant

A complete proof of vaccination should include all data elements and align with the Canadian common look-and-feel. Canadian COVID-19 proof of vaccinations are designed to embed vaccination events in priority, with the most recent at the top.

Human readable content related to non-vaccination information can be printed on an optional second page by the province/territory of issuance.

4.3 Vaccine Codes

Canadian COVID-19 proof of vaccinations will include vaccination information using the CVX code. In some cases, a SNOMED code may also follow the CVX code.

5. Canadian COVID-19 Proof of Vaccination Specimens

Please find below a Canadian COVID-19 proof of vaccination specimen issued by Yukon Territory.



The logo in the top-left will be replaced with the applicable provincial/territorial logo for the issuing province/territory, and in the case of a proof of vaccination issued directly by the Government of Canada, no logo will appear.

Examples of the 13 Provincial/Territorial Logos:



For validation purposes, the Canadian COVID-19 proof of vaccination will be formatted to meet the style guidelines outlined below.

General Style Guidelines:

- Outer margins (from border to edge of paper) are 1.27 cm.
- Inner margins (from border to content) are 1cm.
- A 1 mm black (#000000) border.
- The default font across the document body (unless stated otherwise below) is Arial, 15 pts, black (#000000).
- The default alignment across the document body (unless stated otherwise below) is left aligned.
- The QR code must be entirely in the upper half of the page to avoid creases if the page is folded.
- Spacing between vaccine text areas is 0.5 cm to allow for up to 3 vaccination events on the page.
- A new line is needed after date of birth to allow a potential unique identifier to be added in the future.
- Labels are in non bolded font and values are bolded.
- Remove bold on colon everywhere where colon follows non-bold text.
- All words should be followed by one space, including slashes, colons, numbers. E.g.,
Date[space]:[space]05[space]FEB[space]/[space]FÉV[space]2021[new line]
Date : 05 FEB / FÉV 2021.

Detailed Style Guidelines (See corresponding image below):

1. Header, static text, Dark green (#3A5258) background, font – Arial, 15 pts, white (FFFFFF) text, center aligned, outer & inner margins for this are 0.5cm.
2. Issuing PT label, static text, Arial, 10 pts, black (#000000), left aligned, under the PT logo, (blank section for CAF and GAC).
3. PT logo, horizontal format with 1.25cm height max when printed, left aligned (no logo for CAF and GAC).
4. Country of issuance label, static text, Arial 10 pts, black (#000000), under and left aligned with the Canada wordmark logo.
5. Canada wordmark logo, 1cm height when printed, 125mm from the left inner margin.
6. Name, static text, Arial, 15 pts, followed by Family Name (data element 1.1). Given Name (data element 1.2 with items in the list separated by a space), e.g. "Doe, Jane Liz"/ When the given name list is empty, there should be no comma after the family name on the PDF.
7. Date of birth, static text, Arial, 15 pts, followed by data element 1.3 Birth Date converted from ISO 8601 to the enhanced passport date format described later in section 4.3 (e.g. 2021-02-05 to 05 FEB / FÉV 2021).
8. SMART Health Card, Static text, Arial, 10p pts, centre aligned above QR code, one a single line
9. QR Code, 60 mm x 60 mm.
10. Vaccinations administered, Arial, 15 pts bolded, black (#000000), followed by the number of vaccinations contained in the QR code. The vaccinations must be listed after this heading in reverse chronological order.
11. Date, Arial, 15 pts, followed by data element 2.3 Date of Vaccination converted from ISO 8601 to the enhanced passport date format described later in section 4.3.

12. Product, Arial, 15 pts, followed by the CDC Product name corresponding to the CVX code of the vaccine (data element 2.2 Vaccine Code). See section 4.6 for additional guidance on representing unknown vaccines.
13. Lot, Arial, 15 pts, followed by data element 2.4 Vaccine Lot Number
14. Repeat 11, 12, 13 for second most recent vaccination, etc.
15. Legal footer, static text, Arial, 9 pts, italic, black (#000000), left aligned, 4 pts spacing between English and French texts, and at the bottom of the page, respecting bottom margin of 1 cm.
16. Proof of vaccination Issuance date, Arial, 9 pts, dynamic value representing the date of issuance of the proof of vaccination appearing in both French and English in enhanced passport date format
17. Page numbering, Arial, 9 pts, black (#000000), right aligned, 4mm margins from the bottom border.

1 COVID-19 Proof of Vaccination / Preuve de vaccination contre la COVID-19

2 Issuing Province / Territory
Province / Territoire de délivrance

3 Yukon

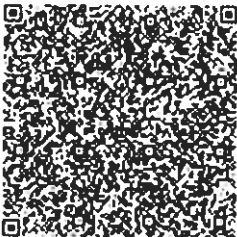
4 Country of issuance /
Pays d'émission

5 Canada

6 Name / Nom : Doe, Jane Liz

7 Date of birth / Date de naissance : 02 JUL / JUIL 1985

8 SMART Health Cards QR Code / Code QR de la carte Santé SMART

9 

10 Vaccinations administered / Vaccins reçus : 2

11 Date : 05 FEB / FÉV 2021

12 Product / Produit : Moderna Spikevax COVID-19

13 Lot : 818364

14 Date : 05 JAN / JAN 2021
Product / Produit : Moderna Spikevax COVID-19
Lot : Not available / Non disponible

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17 Page 1 / 2

Note: While the common look and feel specifications display text in a bilingual format, with English first and then French, some provinces may choose to have French text followed by English.

6 Provincial/Territorial-Issued COVID-19 Vaccination Receipts

While the Government of Canada is encouraging travellers to use the standardized Canadian COVID-19 proof of vaccination, once available, some individuals could continue to use their original, non-standardized vaccination receipts issued by their respective province or territory, or in some cases, by the Government of Canada, which were issued immediately following the receipt of each vaccine dose.

The format of these receipts vary widely, and could include paper-based, card-based or digital proof of vaccination.

The following are a list of Canadian provinces and territories:

- Alberta
- British Columbia
- Manitoba
- New Brunswick
- Newfoundland & Labrador
- Northwest Territories
- Nova Scotia
- Nunavut
- Ontario
- Prince Edward Island
- Quebec
- Saskatchewan
- Yukon

7. Contact Us

For more information on the Canadian COVID-19 proof of vaccination, please contact: IRCC.CANPVC-PVCAN.IRCC@cic.gc.ca.