

AVOID BECOMING A COVID DOCUMENTATION SCAM VICTIM

More and more places are requiring proof that individuals attending an event have received COVID vaccinations or have recently tested negative for the virus before they are allowed access to the venue. The issue is that there's no standard way to prove either. The CDC COVID-19 vaccination cards people received when they got their vaccines were never designed to prove vaccination status. Digital vaccine passports are in development, but they are not widely available.

No clear definition or standard for what constitutes legitimate proof of vaccine or negative COVID test result exists. Scammers are using the confusion about what defines acceptable documentation to con people into buying fake pandemic related records or certificates and trick them into giving out personal information.

What to Know

- Since the "COVID-19 Vaccination Record Card" includes the official government seal of the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), purchasing a forged card is considered a federal offense and may be punishable under Title 18 United States Code, Section 1017, and other applicable laws. These penalties may include fines, a jail sentence, or both.
- There is **NO NATIONAL** digital vaccine passport app. Digital vaccination records, which are accessible on a mobile device, are in very limited use in Israel, New York, and Hawaii. WISCONSIN DOES NOT HAVE A DIGITAL VACCINE PASSPORT. Emails, calls, and text messages that claim the government or other businesses are requiring such a passport are scams.
- Vaccination record cards include spaces for personal data including name, birthdate, patient number, and vaccine information. Do not share that information with anyone who calls, emails, or texts asking for those details! Scammers may try to convince you to verify what's written there or that you need to have a second copy of the card.
- If you misplace the vaccination card, you may contact your local health department. You can also look up your immunization history by visiting Wisconsin Immunization Registry on the Wisconsin Department of Health Services website (<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/immunization/wir.htm>).

Four Ways *to Stay Ahead* of COVID-19 Vaccine Certificate Scammers

Right now, there are no plans to create a national COVID-19 vaccine verification app, certificate or passport. **To stay ahead of scammers:**



Be skeptical of anyone contacting you from the federal government.

No agency will call, email, or text demanding your personal information or money to get a vaccine certificate or passport.



Check with airlines, cruise lines, and event venues about their requirements.

Don't rely on information from someone who calls, texts, or emails you out of the blue.



Contact your state government about its vaccine verification plans and requirements.



Don't share your information with just anyone.

That real-looking site could be scammers looking for your money or information.

Report vaccine passport scammers to the FTC at [ReportFraud.ftc.gov](https://www.ftc.gov) or your attorney general at [ConsumerResources.org](https://www.consumerresources.org).

