IATA Travel Pass Initiative - Update 14 June 2021

Overview of where we are

With the acceleration of vaccine roll out across the world, the point is fast approaching to restart our industry in a meaningful way. This is the point we have been working towards for over a year. However there is a big 'but' which was well articulated in a recent report by the Dublin Airport Authority: *If passenger numbers increase to 25% of 2019 passenger volumes, each passenger will face a 10 hour wait at the airport based on current COVID compliance processes*. This demonstrates the importance of the work we are doing with the IATA Travel Pass to enable passengers to prove and share their document compliance with airlines and governments before arriving at the airport.

The good news is that IATA Travel Pass is being trialled by 69 airlines on 141 routes across the world. The vast majority of these trails have been successful, albeit with some issues mainly due to the low passenger numbers, but this will be addressed when passenger numbers rebound. It very much reminds us of the introduction of kiosk check-in all those years ago.

We are also eagerly awaiting the forthcoming upgrades to both the iOS and Android versions of the App. In effect this will move the solution from being suitable to trial, to being ready for full scale roll out across your network. Enhancements include the ability to scan vaccination and test certificates, itinerary importing, the ability for passengers to share their data with airlines, airports and governments, an improved user interface, and more. These changes complement the recently released version which enables the creation of identities based on the scan of the MRZ. These enhancements will support the widespread adoption of the solution and the industry restart.

Overview of trial routes:


69 Airlines - 141 Routes

Several governments have officially endorsed the IATA Travel Pass with several more due to announce shortly. In addition, many will accept the solution while not officially publicly endorsing it. Please bear in mind that this is an additional benefit of the solution, with the primary goal being to improve airline processes so passengers don't need to have their documents manually checked by airport staff.

Finally, the next IATA Travel Pass User Group meeting will be held on the 8th July 2021.

# IATA Travel Pass App

Overview
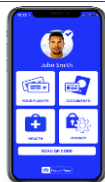
Enables passengers to:
1. Create a Digital ID
2. Import Itinerary into the App
3. Be presented with the regulations for their itinerary
4. Verify their ID with the Lab and receive test/vaccine results in a verifiable manner
5. Ensure they meet COVID travel regulations using Timatic COVID
6. Share results with the airline electronically so self-service check-in can be reintroduced

Ready for scale – Release v1.2

With the next release of IATA Travel Pass planned for the 16th June for iOS (and late June for Android) everything is in place to roll out the application beyond the current trial scope. The first industry solution is ready for passengers to add any type of itinerary in the App and the framework is ready for airlines and governments to receive the OK to Travel shared by the passenger.

Improved user experience
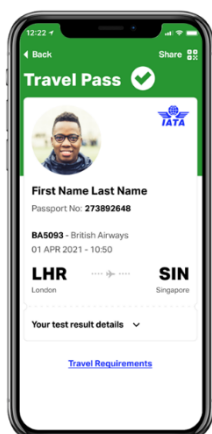
The OK to Travel has been redesigned to make it easier for passengers to read. It also includes a clearer differentiation between the OK to Travel / Not OK to Travel and Conditional status. An added feature is a display specifying the reason why the passenger receives a Not OK to Travel response or obtains a Conditional response from Timatic COVID.

Agents inspecting the OK to Travel screen also benefit from the new design with an expandable section for the test result details. This makes the screen dynamic and scrollable which prevents potential forgery for on screen presentation and verification.

Test and vaccination certificate scanning

We have developed the capability to scan vaccination certificates. With this enhancement we are ready to include additional country or region specific QR codes as they are made available to the public such as the EU Digital COVID Certificate.
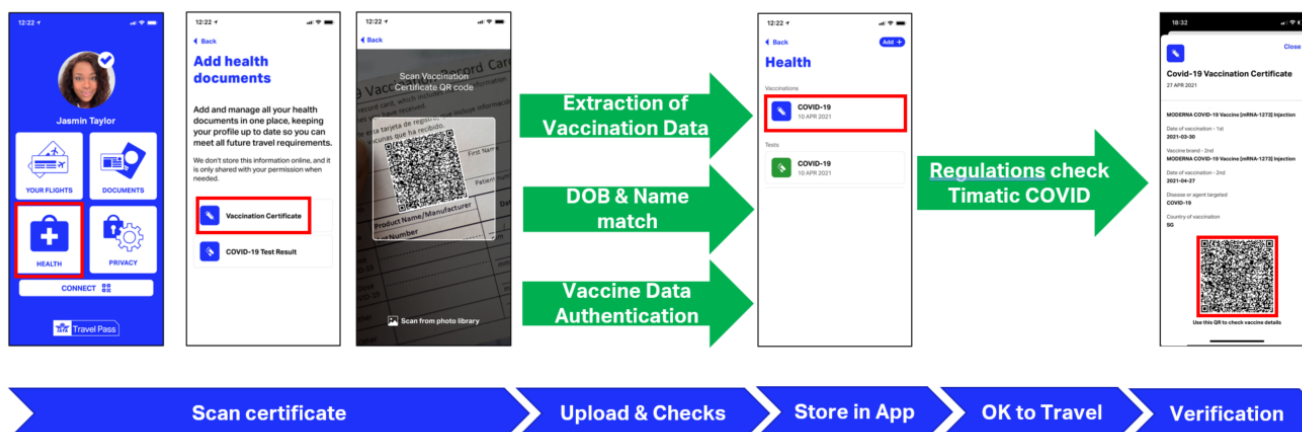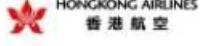
In many instances a test result QR code is being made available by the same authorities that are introducing a vaccination certificate QR code hence the next release will include the ability to scan test result QR codes.

In some countries vaccination certificates are issued without QR code. As a temporary measure, until such time as these passengers can obtain a verifiable vaccination certificate, we will implement a solution for them to take a picture of their vaccination certificate and verify they are OK to Travel.

Airlines Trailing IATA Travel Pass

There is a growing interest in IATA Travel Pass as evidenced by the increase in the number of live airline trails, with many more in the pipeline. The trials are spread across all regions in order to ensure the solution meets global requirements.

Region	#
Americas	7
Europe	25
Asia Pacific	24
Middle East	7
Africa	3
North Asia	3

Timatic COVID

Status Update

Work has commenced on enhancing Timatic COVID to incorporate vaccine requirements. There are two main elements of focus;

1. Regulations: While Timatic COVID already has all the vaccine related information, this will be re-structured into a more granular manner that will be required by the rule's engine
2. Rules engine: This will be enhanced to handle the vaccine parameters as advised by the WHO. In addition, this will also cater for countries that require multiple health document types e.g. test + test; test + vaccine and vaccine only

The enhancements will be ready for customers of standalone Timatic COVID by mid-July.

Lab Update

Status Update

Good progress is being made on expanding the Lab network. We have implemented a three-pronged approach with a focus on ensuring coverage at the top 100 airports;

1. Develop global partnerships
2. Engage labs in specific countries
3. Integrate national platforms

We have developed a Lab Solutions dashboard that is published very Thursday which provides the latest coverage. Please contact your respective IATA Implementation Manager for more information.

Region	Number of labs	Labs accessible to passengers
⊞ Africa & Middle East (AME)	31	28
⊞ Asia Pacific	59	34
⊞ Europe	663	191
⊞ North Asia	2	2
⊞ The Americas	176	77
Total	931	332

Difference between "Number of Labs" and "Accessible to Passengers":
• Large partners still working on technical integration to the Lab product
• Labs only activating their process when they see volume coming their way
• Labs only issuing test results that are not accessible to passengers

As at the 10ᵗʰ June 2021

Product Enhancements

Standalone lab locator

We are in the process of developing a standalone Lab Locator. This will provide the ability for passengers to search for a lab in the IATA Travel Pass Lab network that can provide the COVID test required for their journey. Access will be provided via the IATA Travel Centre

It is expected to be completed by mid-July and will complement the Lab Locator being built into the IATA Travel Pass App.

Self-service registration portal

To make it easier for interested labs to join the lab network we plan to launch a self-service registration portal on the 17ᵗʰ June. The portal will enable applications to be submitted online and vetted by IATA. A marketing campaign is in progress targeted at those cities where greater lab coverage is needed.

IATA Travel Pass User Group

The last User Group meeting took place on the 11th May. The discussion focused primarily on enhancements to the IATA Travel Pass App and passenger engagement strategies.

The next IATA Travel Pass User Group meeting will take place on the 8th July 2021.

Advocacy

One of the key issues for governments is mitigating the risk of importation of COVID-19 with particular focus on new variants. Testing, vaccination, and community contact tracing are the primary methods that governments are using to mitigate this risk. IATA has issued a very clear policy concerning the use of digital methods that can help governments to verify that travellers meet the COVID-19 requirements for entry.

IATA's preferred approach is for national governments to develop web portals and apps where travellers upload their test and vaccine certificates directly and the verification is done by the government. The airline receives some form of "OK to Travel" message. Confirmation of the "OK to Travel" must be provided in such a way that airlines, responsible for validating that the passenger possesses the authorization, can automate the validation process and allow the passenger to demonstrate they possess the authorization before arriving at the airport or, where needed, through self-service options at airports. This is the general approach adopted by the EU with its COVID Certificate.

Where this is not possible, digital passes, including IATA Travel Pass, can assist. Our continued advocacy efforts are focused on the 33 largest states that comprise over 80% of international traffic. Working through our local country offices, and in coordination with member airlines and partner associations, we are proposing a partnership approach with governments. We are asking them to work with the industry so that we can develop clear roadmaps to remove restrictions gradually as the public health situation allows.

IATA has set out some prerequisites that governments need to consider if digital passes, including IATA Travel Pass, are to deliver maximum benefit. These can be divided in to three elements -health certificates, verification of certificates and airport facilitation.

Health Certificates
- It is important that when citizens are tested or vaccinated, they receive a smart COVID-19 test or vaccination certificate equipped with a Quick Response (QR) code.
- Test certificates should include the core data elements established by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) in Document 10152 - Manual on Testing and Cross Border Risk Management.
- Vaccine certificates should be consistent with the World Health Organization's (WHO) first release of the Smart Vaccine Certificate (SVC) including generating a unique vaccination certificate identifier (UVCI) with digital signatures as a mean to secure certificates issued on paper.
- While States may prefer to wait for the finalized WHO SVC standard to be published, this may take some time and compromise the speed at which governments can safely reopen borders

and get the economic recovery under way. To avoid delays, some countries like the UK are using the standards set out in the first release of the WHO SVC but are including an expiration date on the QR code which will the prompt the holder to download a new QR code when the SVC is finalized.

Verification of Certificates
- Where States want digital passes to use the Public Key Infrastructure (PKI) to verify vaccination certificates, they must ensure that the public keys are provided to non-government verifiers such as digital health pass providers.

Airport Facilitation
- Avoiding queues and bottlenecks associated with checks of health credentials is not just about ensuring a smooth passenger experience but also to help social distancing and to facilitate the contactless approach set out in the ICAO CART Take Off Guidance. Therefore, it is preferable for governments to receive details of passenger test or vaccination status in advance of travel and to provide some form of approval to travel message directly to the airline rather than conducting checks at airport border points. With IATA Travel Pass, this information can be sent by the passenger via the App to onboarded government authorities at a time designated by the respective government authority.
- However, if border or other authorities do not have the means to provide airlines with an "OK to Travel" authorization, spot checks may be necessary at the airport border control. In such cases, the "OK to Travel" confirmation in the IATA Travel Pass App displayed on the passenger's phone should be accepted.

IATA is also doing considerable local advocacy with border authorities. Some may simply accept the on-screen "OK to Travel" confirmation at the border point or in advance of travel. Others may have specific requirements for example, to facilitate the use of e-gates. Therefore, we are engaging border authorities as part of our advocacy so that we can ensure there are no blockers to the operational deployment of IATA Travel Pass.

Standards

WHO Health Credentials
The WHO Smart Vaccination Certificate Working Group has been disestablished and a new Digital Documentation of COVID-19 Certificates (DDCC) group has been established.

The DDCC will release guidance documents to guide Member States on how to digitally document COVID-19 vaccination status, SARS-COV-2 test results and COVID-19 recovery status. This will include critical components such as the minimum datasets and preferred code sets. However, it will make no reference to the specific circumstances under which these certificates should be used.

Such WHO guidance will be made available elsewhere (e.g. WHO's interim guidance documents on considerations for a risk-based approach to international travel in the context of COVID-19; etc.).

Timelines for the DDCC specifications based on the expanded scope will be announced in due course however draft guidance related to national-level digital documentation of COVID-19 certificates will be shared by mid-June, for review.