



Fact Sheet: IATA Travel Pass

Overview: The Challenges

As more and more destinations impose COVID-19 testing requirements and consider abolishing quarantine for those vaccinated against COVID-19, airlines and air travelers face a confusing and challenging situation.

- Travelers need accurate information on COVID-19-related testing and/or vaccine requirements, as well as authorized test and vaccine centers, yet often they don't know where to find it and the information may be presented in a confusing or hard to understand manner.
- Airlines are often responsible for ensuring that their passengers comply with entry requirements, yet they have no way of verifying the authenticity of test and vaccine information presented by travelers.
- Paper-based processes used to manage existing health requirements (such as Yellow Fever vaccines) are not secure, are subject to fraud, are slow and cumbersome, and are not scalable.
- Currently airports and airlines are carrying 10% of the normal volume of passengers, but many have the same number of check-in agents working to physically check passengers test and vaccine documents. Processes need to be pushed off airport if airports and airlines are to have sufficient capacity to enable industry restart.

Against this context, there is a clear need to provide governments, travelers, and industry stakeholders, with digital solutions to address these challenges, while contributing to a safe and efficient re-opening of borders.

IATA Travel Pass: How it works

IATA Travel Pass is a mobile app that helps travellers to store and manage their verified certifications for COVID-19 tests or vaccines. It is more secure and efficient than current paper processes used to manage health requirements (the International Certificate of Vaccination or Prophylaxis, for example). This is important given the potentially enormous scale of testing or vaccine verifications that will need to be securely managed.

IATA Travel Pass consists of **four key modules**:

- **A global registry of health requirements**, enabling passengers to find accurate information on travel, health and testing requirements for their journey.
- **A built-in registry of COVID-19 testing and vaccination centers at the passenger's point of departure**. This open-source registry is global and includes lab information such as contact, website and geo-location. It provides passengers with information on the kind of tests/certificates being provided and verifies that the results will be accepted at the point of arrival.
- **The Lab App** is a secure, encrypted channel which enables laboratories to verify passenger's identities and then send the results of COVID-19 tests, or proof of vaccination directly to passengers and stored on their mobile device.
- **IATA's Travel Pass App**, allows passengers to create a secure and verified digital identity linked to their passport, verify their test/vaccination requirements and status, and share this information with the relevant authorities.



Differentiators of IATA Travel Pass: What sets it apart

Amid a proliferation of digital health apps, IATA Travel Pass is unique as it combines all these elements. It's a solution developed with input from industry for integration into airlines' own apps and processes based on open standards. No parties own the standards, the network or the customers. While many other apps include elements found in IATA Travel Pass, IATA's solution is the only one to include all.

- **Decentralized technology**
Ensuring the highest levels of data security and privacy for passengers

IATA Travel Pass is built on verifiable credential technology, a new standard for digital identity that puts the individual in control of their data. Verifiable credentials allow individuals to hold identity documents (including COVID-19 test results), as digital 'credentials' in a secure smartphone 'digital wallet' app, and control when and with whom these credentials are shared. Unlike traditional identity models, the verifiable credential model is completely decentralized, meaning there is no data intermediaries and sensitive data is not stored on a centralized database. Your data is always safe, private, secure, and under your control.

Specific design details to note include:

- There is no central database. All data is stored on the user's own phone. Passengers have full control over their own data on their phone and can choose to share it with airlines and other parties.
- The technology is based on open standards: [Verifiable Credentials](#), approved by the W3C in 2019, and [Decentralized Identifiers \(DIDs\)](#), on-track to becoming the first identifier approved by the W3C since the URL.
- The digital credential component is powered by Evernym, a leader in verifiable credentials.

- **Comprehensive COVID-19 rules and regulations database**
Provides travelers and authorities accurate information on COVID requirements

The app's rules engine, containing the global registry of health requirements, is powered by Timatic. Timatic is a well-established global travel rules and regulations database supported by an extensive sourcing network. Timatic also powers most airline check-in systems for passport and visa regulation compliance and pushes COVID regulations to airlines.

- **Verified Identity management**
Reduces certificate fraud

IATA Travel Pass enables travelers to create a digital identity derived from a government issued ID document such as a passport. This is based on global Digital Travel Credential (DTC) standards developed by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) which match biometric passport data and images taken by the passenger using their phone camera, including a requirement for the

passenger to move as an extra security precaution. This creates a Type 1 digital travel credential in line with ICAO standards. This means that airlines and governments can have confidence in the test/vaccine results both from a content and identity perspective.



- **Integration into airlines' own apps**
Means a more seamless journey for travelers

IATA Travel Pass (ITP) is a solution that will power existing airline customer mobile apps as well as be a standalone app. This gives airlines maximum flexibility and will provide a more seamless journey for travelers.

- **Sustainable**
IATA Travel Pass unlocks contactless travel

IATA Travel Pass unlocks the potential for convenient [contactless travel processes](#) from check-in to boarding. While the need for COVID-19 information verification may eventually disappear when the pandemic recedes, IATA Travel Pass technology will remain as a critical enabler of contactless travel.

- **Aviation input**
Means the needs of industry are met

The app has been designed "by the industry for the industry" with input from an advisory group composed of 19 airlines representing all regions of the world.

- **Cost Effective Industry Solution**
Critical for the industry as it struggles for survival due to COVID-19

IATA Travel Pass has been built using a number of existing IATA solutions, specifically the IATA Contactless Travel App and Timatic which keeps the costs down for the industry which is even more important now than ever before.

The next steps: Key enablers for Digital Health Passes

For digital health passes to be effective:

- The World Health Organization (WHO), International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) need to accelerate the development of digital health certificates for Covid-19 vaccines and testing. This will ensure equivalence, mutual recognition, and acceptance of COVID-19 certifications when they travel around the world.
- Border or other agencies need to accept digital passenger test/vaccination certificates on a passenger's mobile device and not just on paper.
- Countries need to ensure that their citizens receive a **digital COVID-19 test/vaccination certificate** when they are tested or vaccinated so they have a verifiable document on their mobile device.