



**October 19, 2021**

**MEMORANDUM TO:** Municipal Chief Administrative Officers and Clerks

**SUBJECT:** Enhanced COVID-19 Vaccine Certificate with QR Code and Verify Ontario App Available for Download Starting October 15

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In advance of October 22, the government is making the enhanced vaccine certificate with official QR code and the free verification app, Verify Ontario, available for download.

Together, these tools will make it easier, more secure and convenient for individuals to provide proof of vaccination where required to do so, and for businesses and organizations to verify vaccine certificates while protecting people's privacy.

### **Enhanced Vaccine Certificate**

Starting October 18 at 6:00 a.m., the portal will be open for any individual to download their enhanced vaccine certificate, regardless of their birth month. Individuals can also call the Provincial Vaccine Contact Centre at 1-833-943-3900 to have their enhanced vaccine certificate emailed or mailed to them.

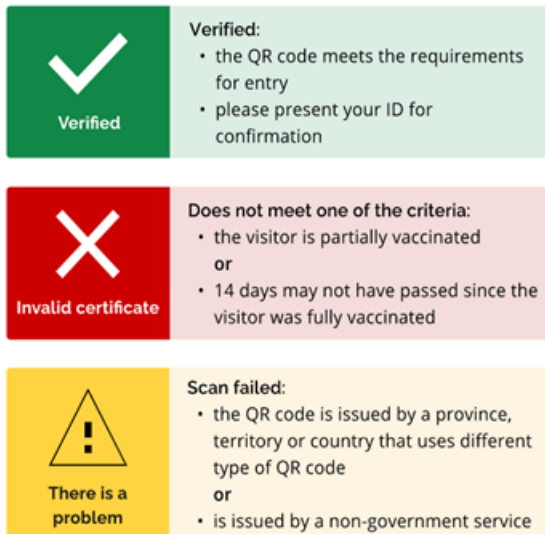
People can save the electronic version of their vaccine certificate with a QR code to their phone or print a paper copy. **Businesses must accept both electronic and paper versions.**

In addition, the current vaccine receipt without a QR code remains valid and must continue to be accepted. Ontarians will need to show a piece of identification that matches their name and date of birth to their proof of vaccination when visiting select [businesses and organizations](#).

### **Verify Ontario app**

Starting on October 15, businesses and organizations can download the free Verify Ontario app from the Apple App and Google Play stores. The made-in-Ontario app has been designed to help businesses by making it quicker and easier to confirm if a person is fully vaccinated against COVID-19, while protecting their privacy. The app can be used without an internet connection and never stores personal information.

The app will read the QR code to verify whether it is a legitimate Ontario government issued code that is free of tampering and notify the business or organization if the patron is verified to enter the premises with proof of full vaccination by displaying one of the three following results.



Verify Ontario will only scan and read official, government issued QR codes, such as Ontario’s vaccine certificate and those from other provinces including Quebec, British Columbia and Yukon Territory.

### **Updated Guidance and Posters**

Ontario has updated the [regulation](#), [Guidance for Businesses and Organizations](#) and [Questions and Answers](#) to support the implementation of the enhanced vaccine certificate with a QR code and the Verify Ontario app.

The updated regulation also provides an exemption for people who are currently participating in a COVID-19 vaccine clinical trial that is authorized by Health Canada and specified in [Guidance for Businesses and Organizations](#). This will support continued participation in vaccine clinical trials and ensure they can be completed successfully.

There are also updated posters for businesses and organizations to print and display.

### **Compliance and Enforcement**

As a reminder, for offences under the ROA, police and other provincial offences officers, including First Nation Constables, special constables, and municipal by-law officers, have discretion to either issue tickets to individuals for set fine amounts or issue a summons under Part I of the Provincial Offences Act (POA) or to proceed under Part III of the POA by laying an information.

I strongly encourage our municipal partners to continue their local compliance and enforcement efforts and to work closely with provincial enforcement officers and public health officers to coordinate compliance activities in your communities. To identify opportunities for and to plan coordinated compliance activities in your community, please email Stephen Wilson at: [Stephen.J.Wilson@ontario.ca](mailto:Stephen.J.Wilson@ontario.ca).

Thank you for your support and for joining our shared commitment to work together to protect the health and well-being of Ontarians.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "K. Manson-Smith". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kate Manson-Smith  
Deputy Minister