

TIAO – Vaccine Passport Q & A – Sept 7, 2021

Questions:

1) How will businesses intend to scan QR codes (instructions) and where and how long will they be stored for?

So if you do it once, you can't hold on to the data. So for instance, if you go to a gym, where you have to prove your vaccination status to get in, the business has to ask you every time. They are not allowing anyone to maintain or retain this data. The data will go away with the implementation of the QR codes. The app is currently in development so we don't have any specific instructions at this time. The app is set to be available in October; ready for use by October 22nd. From what we know so far, you're going to scan the patron's QR code that's going to be on either a paper certificate or on a mobile device, and it'll display that person's vaccination status (it will likely be displayed as a green checkmark) and show only the relevant information. So it will limit the amount of personal information that will be shown. It will most likely echo Quebec's vaccination passport (available on iTunes or Android for download). It has been successful so far, but not perfect.

2) Will "Self-scanners" be allowed?

I know staffing is an issue so I know some business will struggle to have someone at the door filtering people. We are trying to find this out right now. We suspect it will require a person at the door.

3) Just wondering as we see some major employers in the travel sector moving to mandatory vaccination of employees do we know what standing tourism employers have to make such demands on employees?

Just curious... As an extension of the vaccination certificate and proof of immunization, some larger organizations, like MLSE, will require double vaccination for outdoor events and their staff are required to be double vaccinated. Many are asking what is the legal standing for this moving forward. We think it's going to be precedent. This is going to be challenged in the courts moving forward. You are going to see more and more businesses opt in voluntarily to have their own vaccine passport to enter their business, and they're going to move forward in a similar way with employees. It will be trial and error. In speaking with the offices of Ministry of Labour, Ministry of Finance, Minister McLeod

and Premier's office, they have no intention right now to legislate to make it mandatory for employees. Vaccines are not mandatory at all for anybody. It's now that the proof of immunization certificate means that you won't be able to frequent certain activities or businesses. There have already been some court cases around ESA and severance. The most recent judgments have shown that they believe that COVID-19 is a good enough reason for businesses to opt out of usual employment standard practices, because it's such a seismic event. It will be strength in numbers.

4) So in the case of a resort where clientele is fixed, especially at a remote fly-in lodge where customers just don't show up, would be good to do this at check in as the same server asking the same guests for the same QR code several times a day would get old real fast.

We will give this example to Health to get some response from them, as it may not be reasonable for this to be continuously asked for or done. Common sense may need to prevail, especially for fly in lodges. Many businesses, like gyms, are also seeking this information.

5) Will our drive-in guests from the US need to show their paperwork to us, having been allowed to enter Canada?

It will depend on the service. So if it's a hotel, then no, because proof of vaccination is not required to access accommodation. However, if dining indoors at the hotel or participating in another activity on the list where it is required, then they will need to show the information that is on the ArriveCan app in order to take part. We are asking for some clarity from government and to have some flexibility. For those visiting from out of province or internationally, they will need to show the proof of immunization from their home province or the proof they showed at the border.

Open Call (Sector Associations, Tourism Operators, Educators and DMOs):

1) How quickly will the government be able to roll out the details?

Our businesses will want this in order to train staff. We were told probably this week or next. There is significant detail to go into this,

2) Do we have any clue yet on what will happen with visitors from outside of Ontario? (I hope to be able to attend Ontario Tourism Summit 2021 in person even though I live on the Quebec side...)

There is just two lines in what was released by the government last week, which we followed up on in regards to out of province visitors and international visitors. For international visitors were expecting them to be asked to provide the information that they provided to cross the border. After September 22nd, they can provide the information in the ArriveCan app. We're asking the government for clarity as well as providing some educational tools for businesses. For provincial travellers, they can bring their proof of vaccination/receipt from their home province. We hope when the QR code comes into effect, we can use the same program/platform. Government funding and support will be required to avoid fraud.