

Position on digital vaccine passport

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The Institute endorses digital records to be used for the next phase of managing the pandemic – vaccinations.

With the Australian population being vaccinated this year, once international borders re-open, there will be a need to manage records of those vaccinated either in Australia or overseas.

We need to define a global standard to record vaccination status that can be digitally shared across systems and borders.

There is a need for a digital vaccination record that seamlessly travels with the individual, therefore global agreement on the data standards will be essential.

Specifically, many countries need a valid, secure digital record of vaccination which is recognised by other countries, given the travel patterns of people around the world and the challenges they're facing in managing outbreaks.

The Institute endorses the use of a digital international Yellow Card* which would verify details of a person's vaccination for COVID-19, whether they received the vaccine in Australia or anywhere else in the world.

With the essential technology in place, Australia is well prepared to accept internationally standard digital vaccine passports:

- The Australian Immunisation Register (AIR) is a fully digital record of a person's vaccines, and anyone who receives the COVID vaccine in Australia will get their COVID vaccine details put in the AIR.
- As a precedent, there are already standards for vaccines in the AIR, and there is an existing medical workflow with international Yellow Cards,
- Australia has consumer portals for the AIR through the My Health Record and Medicare app.
- Clinical information systems in Australia that connect to the My Health Record enable authorised healthcare providers to view digital vaccination records in real time.
- The utilisation of digital pathology systems has provided up-to-the-minute data for clinicians and health system administrators on COVID cases.

In addition, Australia has a skilled digital health workforce with capability and readiness to support this campaign through skills, expertise and innovation has kept us on top of this in our region.

*The Yellow Card, or Carte Jaune, is a medical passport issued by the World Health Organization. It's an official record that some countries require for entrance, and it can document vaccination against diseases ranging from cholera and yellow fever to such childhood illnesses as rubella. The term 'Yellow Card' is used more generally to describe an internationally recognised record of vaccination.