

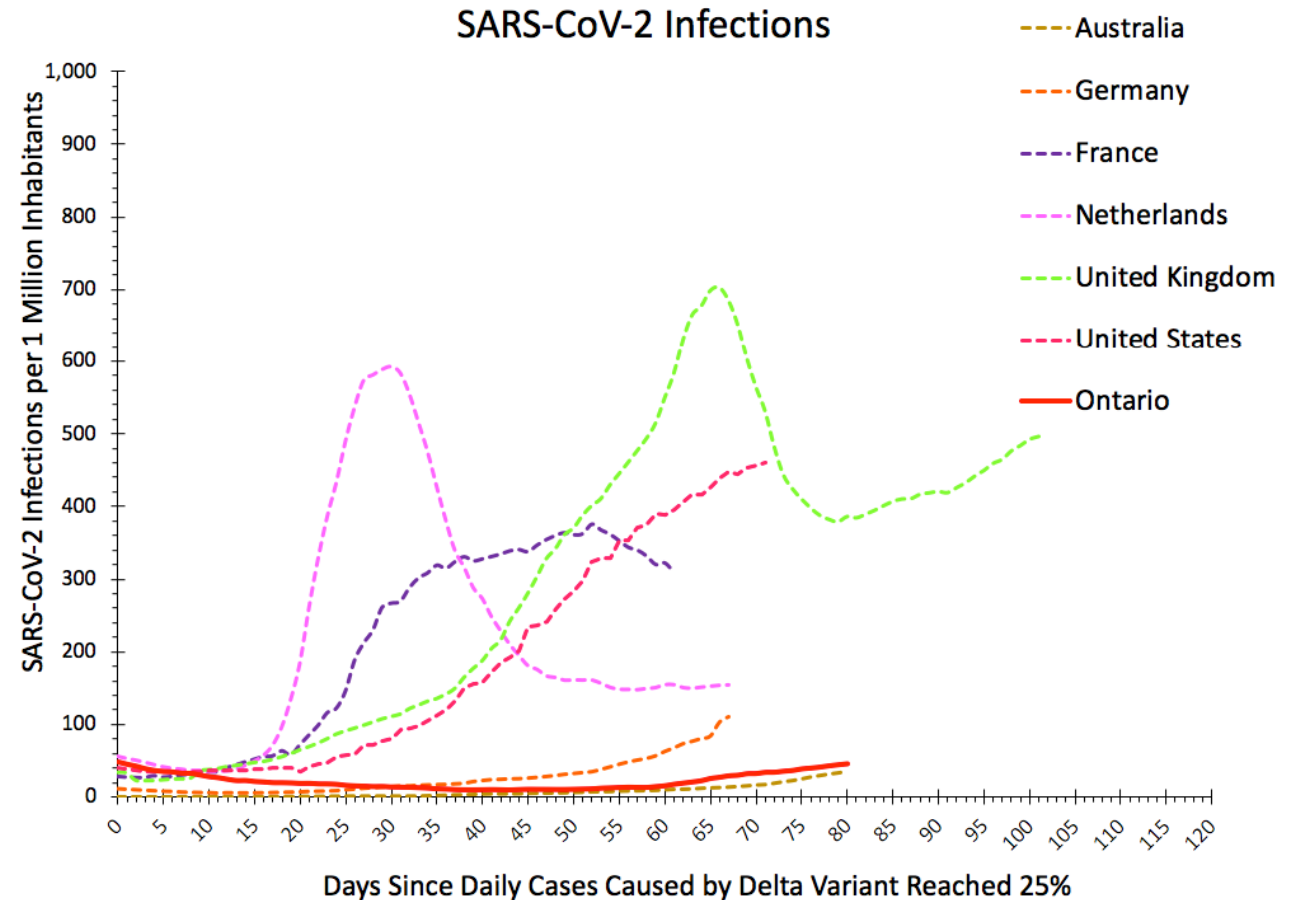
# Ontario's Enhanced COVID-19 Vaccine Certificate



September 1, 2021

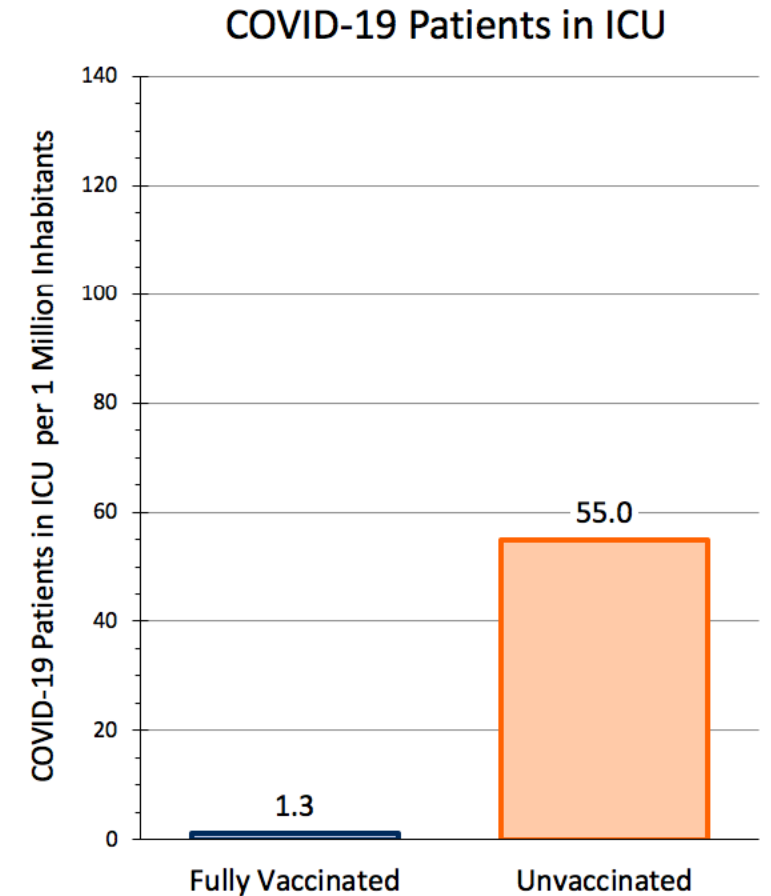
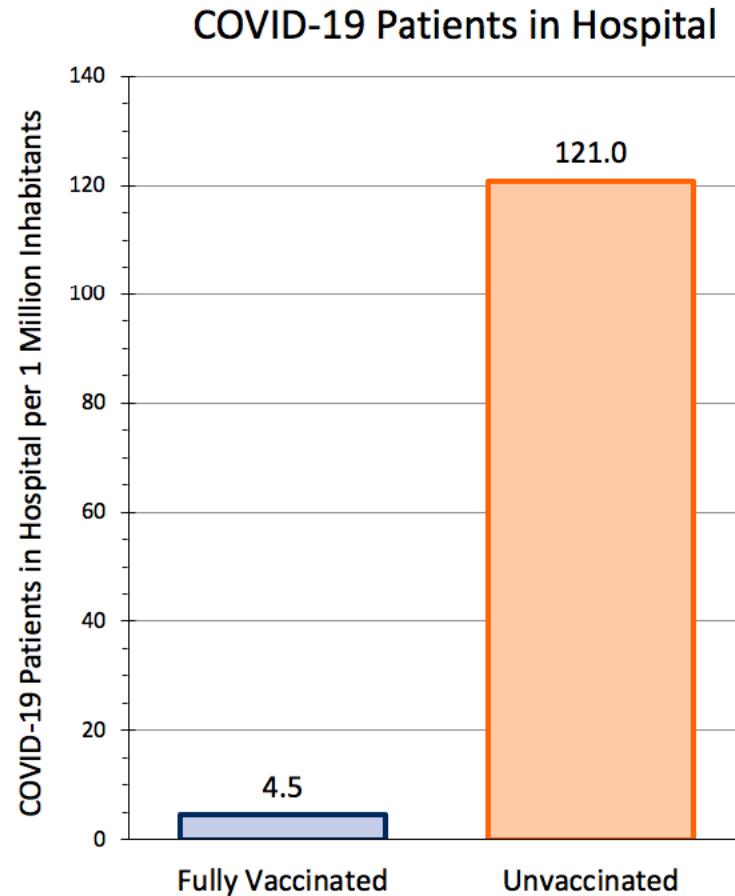
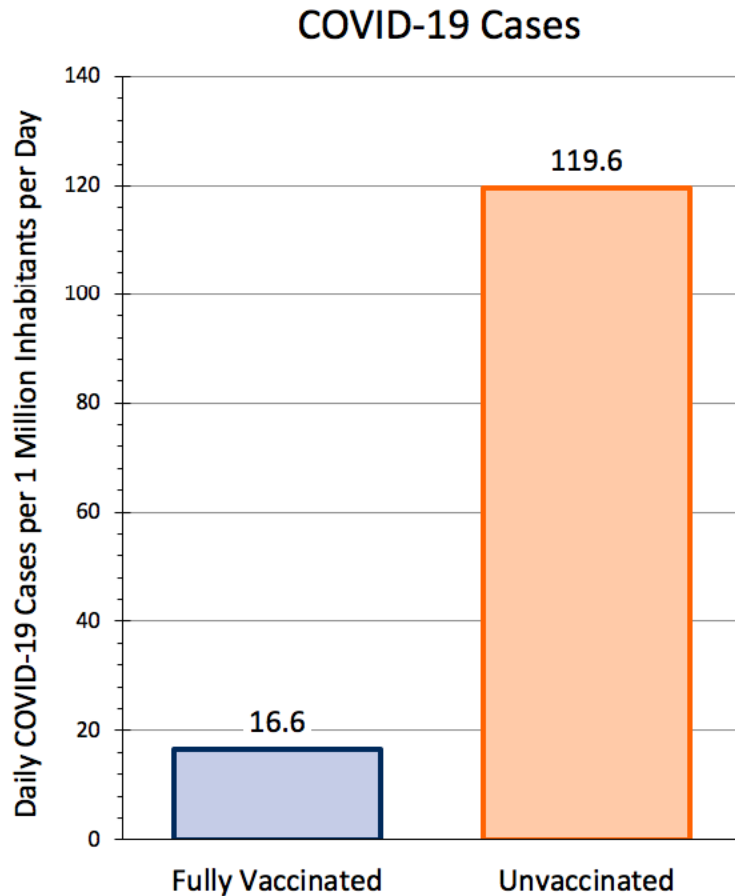
# Ontario's Cautious Approach is Working

- Like other peer jurisdictions, Ontario is in the fourth wave of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Ontario's cautious approach to re-opening has slowed the growth of the virus.
- Ontario's cautious approach has included the following:
  - Maintaining public health measures like masking while indoors;
  - Pausing the exit from the Roadmap to Reopen;
  - Releasing the most comprehensive, far-ranging mandatory vaccination policies in the country; and
  - Becoming the first jurisdiction in Canada to approve a third dose for vulnerable populations.



# Vaccines Remain our Best Defense




Unvaccinated people have a 7-fold higher risk of symptomatic COVID-19 disease, a 27-fold higher risk of being in the hospital and 42-fold higher risk of being in the ICU compared to the fully vaccinated



# Mandatory Vaccination Policies

- Ontario has released the most comprehensive and far-ranging mandatory vaccination policies in the country.
- To protect vulnerable patients and staff in high-risk settings, the Chief Medical Officer of Health issued a Directive on August 17, 2021, mandating the following effective September 7, 2021:
  - Hospitals and home and community care service providers to have a COVID-19 vaccination policy for employees, staff, contractors, students and volunteers; and
  - Ambulance services to have a COVID-19 vaccination policy for paramedics.
- This is similar to the vaccination policy requirements in place for long-term care homes announced on May 31, 2021.
- The Ministry of Education has also introduced a vaccination disclosure policy for all publicly-funded school board employees, as well as staff in private schools and all staff in licensed child care settings for the 2021-22 school year. Teachers must either show a negative test or show that they are vaccinated.
  - COVaxON will be used to safely and securely confirm the vaccination status of students, enabling rapid case and contact management to limit disruptions in the event of cases or outbreaks and keep kids in class.
- Vaccination policies are also being mandated and will be implemented in other higher-risk settings such as:
  - Post-secondary institutions;
  - Licensed retirement homes;
  - Women's shelters; and
  - Congregate group homes and day programs for adults with developmental disabilities, children's treatment centres and other services for children with special needs, and licensed children's residential settings.

# Current Context: Vaccine Receipts

-  Currently, vaccine receipts are available in PDF form to be downloaded or printed.
-  The Delta variant and the recent experience of other jurisdictions has demonstrated the need for additional steps to further increase vaccination rates, ensure enhanced protection in public settings for individuals who are fully vaccinated, and keep businesses open.
-  The province will provide Ontarians with a trusted service on vaccination certificates by providing access to their existing vaccine information in a trusted, digitally readable format.

## Purpose of Enhanced Vaccination Certificate Services

- 1. Individual control:** Ensures Ontarians can obtain and use their vaccination certificate info when and how they choose
- 2. Privacy enhancements:** Strengthens and protects Ontarians' privacy
- 3. Stability for businesses:** A tool to help keep businesses open and reduce burden on businesses by introducing new technology.
- 4. Foundational capability:** Prepares for interoperability and integration with federal vaccine passport for international travel
- 5. Interoperability:** Standard technology enables status to be read across jurisdictions in Canada

# Settings Where Patrons Must be Fully Vaccinated

- Starting September 22, 2021, Ontarians will need to be fully vaccinated (two doses plus 14 days) and provide their proof of vaccination along with photo ID to access certain public settings and facilities.
- This approach focuses on higher-risk indoor public settings where face coverings cannot always be worn and includes:
  - Restaurants and bars (excluding outdoor patios, as well as delivery and takeout);
  - Nightclubs (including outdoor areas of the establishment);
  - Meeting and event spaces, such as banquet halls and conference/convention centres;
  - Facilities used for sports and fitness activities and personal fitness training, such as gyms, fitness and recreational facilities with the exception of youth recreational sport;
  - Sporting events;
  - Casinos, bingo halls and gaming establishments;
  - Concerts, music festivals, theatres and cinemas;
  - Strip clubs, bathhouses and sex clubs
  - Racing venues (e.g., horse racing).
- These requirements would not apply to outdoor settings where the risk of transmission is lower, including patios, with the exception of outdoor nightclub spaces given the risk associated with the setting.

# Considerations/Exemptions

- At no time will anyone be prevented from accessing necessary medical care, food from grocery store, basic medical supplies or other essentials based on vaccination status. This includes voting in the upcoming federal election.
- Unvaccinated people with medical exemptions and people under 12 years old will be permitted to enter these settings.
- A negative COVID-19 test or recent COVID-19 infection will not entitle a person to enter these settings, with narrow, time-limited exceptions for testing (e.g. for wedding or funeral receptions).
- In the coming weeks Ontario will establish processes for individuals with no email or health card/ID, as well as support implementation of vaccine certificates for Indigenous communities whether or not they have opted to enter their data into COVax, while maintaining Indigenous data governance, control, access, and possession principles.
- Individuals with a green photo OHIP card, can log in to the provincial portal to download or print an electronic COVID-19 vaccine receipt (PDF). Individuals will need their green photo OHIP card, date of birth, and postal code. Those who have a red and white health card can call the Provincial Vaccine Booking Line at 1-833-943-3900 to receive an a copy of their vaccination receipt by email.
- Those who received their first or second dose of the COVID-19 vaccine out of province should contact their local public health unit to record their information and receive proper documentation.
- For questions about how to access vaccination records, Ontarians can contact the Provincial Vaccine Information Line at 1-888-999-6488 (TTY for people who are deaf, hearing-impaired or speech-impaired: 1-866-797-0007). Information is available in more than 300 languages and this line is available 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., seven days a week.

# Enhanced Vaccination Certificate Services

## 1 Proof of Immunization Required

*(POLICY EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 22)*

### Overview

People are required to be fully vaccinated (two doses based on approved vaccines + 14 days) and prove their vaccination status to enter prescribed facilities (visual verification of receipt until future services provided)

### Description

- Ontarians currently have access to paper/PDF receipt that includes all their clinical vaccination information
- The receipt includes user's name, date of birth, last four digits of health card, date, vaccination dose, vaccination type, and authorizing org., etc.
- Ontarians will be required to show their paper/PDF receipt at the entrance of prescribed settings for visual inspection along an appropriate piece of ID

## 2

## Certificate with QR Code and Verification App

*(OCTOBER 22)*

### Overview

Certificates will be issued that meet the Smart Health Card standard and include a unique QR code containing similar information as the current paper/ PDF certificate.

The province will develop and launch a new app that businesses and facilities can use to scan and validate unique QR codes.

### Description

- A standardized QR code provides a method for users to easily share certificate info digitally when scanned
- The province will develop a verification app to the market that scans the QR code on a holder's vaccine certificate
- The verification service will return the holder's vaccine status based on business rules set by the province and limit the data displayed (e.g., simple yes/no + name when scanned)



From September 22, Ontarians will be required to provide proof of vaccination status along with a piece of ID to enter prescribed settings. Ontario will develop and provide additional tools to improve user experience, efficiency and business supports in the coming weeks, including establishing exception processes for clients with Red and White Health Card, or COVID ID, or clients who have a photo health card but did not provide it at time of vaccination.



# User Journey: Visual Receipt Verification

## Step 1 – Proof of Immunization Required

- Prior to launch the QR codes and verification app, the vaccine receipts currently provided to Ontarians through the Ontario.ca portal will be verified in conjunction with a government issued piece of ID.

### 1 Proof of Immunization Required

(EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 22)

PAPER OR PDF VACCINE RECEIPT

### 2 Certificate with QR Code and Verification App

(EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 22)

#### SAMPLE USER JOURNEY



Jane received all doses of her WHO-approved COVID-19 vaccine and **receives a vaccine receipt** (through digital portal or service desk)

Jane receives the **provincially issued vaccination receipt** which she prints or stores on a mobile device as a PDF (in October, the receipt will have a QR code)

Jane now has her vaccine receipt, ready to be used as **proof-of-vaccination**

Jane displays her vaccine receipt along with another piece of **physical identification** (e.g., photo health card or driver's licence)

Organizations and venues visually verify the **vaccine certificate** and **physical ID**

# User Journey: Digital Vaccine Certificate

## Step 2 – Enhanced Certificate with QR Code and Verification App

- Once the verification app launches, organizations and venues will scan unique QR codes on vaccine certificates to verify their authenticity and simplify the user experience.

1 Policy Implementation  
(EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 22)

2 Certificate with QR Code and Verification App  
(OCTOBER 22)

VACCINE CERTIFICATE WITH QR CODE

### SAMPLE USER JOURNEY



John received all doses of his WHO-approved COVID-19 vaccine and **requests a vaccine certificate** (through digital portal or service desk)

John receives the provincially issued and signed vaccination certificate (PDF with **QR code beside text**) which he prints or stores on a mobile device (such as Apple Wallet) as a PDF

John now has version of his vaccine certificate where the QR code contains **similar information as is printed on the certificate**

John **presents** his vaccine certificate by displaying the QR code for scanning along with an appropriate piece of ID

**A provincially provided application** reads the QR code, verifies it originated from a trusted source, and displays John's status based on provincial guidelines