



Philippine Overseas Employment Administration

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AUSTRALIA'S INTERNATIONAL COVID-19 VACCINATION CERTIFICATE

The Australian Government announced that it will start issuing **International COVID-19 Vaccination Certificate** from October 2021 to outbound travelers.

The vaccination certificate can be accessed and downloaded through phone or in printed form. It contains information from the **Australian Immunisation Register**, the country's official national database of vaccinations. The certificate will be available to **Australian and foreign passport holders** alike who have been immunized in the said country.

For protection against forgery, the certificate uses a Quick Response (QR) code known as a **Visible Digital Seal (VDS or VDS-NC)**. The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) has specified VDS as its standard for health certificates for cross-border air travel. The said format was also endorsed by the World Health Organization (WHO).

The certificate records the holder's vaccination history and contains possible vaccination scenarios that are consistent with the ICAO standard and with vaccination practice in Australia. The VDS QR code, on the other hand, holds all the data elements, as well as signature information for authenticating the certificate. It was stressed by the federal government that the certificate does not contain a statement that the holder is fully vaccinated and simply shows the holder's vaccination history, whether it would satisfy current health policy and protocols is a matter for authorities of the destination countries to determine.

No expiration was also provided on the certificate since they make no time sensitive assessment on the full vaccination of the holder, those who have further immunizations can get a new certificate without the cancellation of the one earlier issued.

For the information and guidance of all concerned.


BERNARD P. OLALIA
Administrator

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Source: *Philippine Overseas Labour Office (POLO) – Canberra, Australia*
Philippine Embassy – Canberra, Australia
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Australian Passport Office – Canberra, Australia - <https://www.passports.gov.au/vds-nc-checker>

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