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MSPs back Scottish vaccine passports

9 September 2021

Summary

SNP and Scottish Green MSPs back a scheme requiring people going to nightclubs and big sports stadia to show their Covid vaccination status

The vaccine passports will come into force in Scotland on 1 October, the same day a similar scheme begins in England

Ahead of a vote, a debate took place at the Scottish Parliament in which opposition MSPs voiced their objections

Scottish Conservative leader Douglas Ross said it was unclear how the passports would work

Scottish Labour's Jackie Baillie said there was no evidence the scheme would encourage the unvaccinated to get a jab

And Scottish Lib Dem leader Alex Cole-Hamilton told the debate: "You should never have to provide any aspect of your medical history to a bouncer to get into a nightclub."

Live Reporting

BBC Scotland News

17:52 9 September 2021 **BREAKING**

MSPs vote for Scottish vaccine passport scheme



| People queued for entry into nightclubs when they reopened

Holyrood votes to back controversial plans to introduce a vaccine passport scheme in Scotland.

68 MSPs voted for the government motion, with 55 against.

The move will mean that only people who have been fully vaccinated will be allowed into nightclubs, major sporting events and many concerts and festivals.

The Scottish government says the plan is designed to allow large events to go ahead as safely as possible.

Details of the proposals were only published by the government on Thursday morning - just hours before the vote.

- [Read more here](#)
- [What do we know about Scotland's vaccine passport?](#)
- [How will Scotland's vaccine certificate change?](#)

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Debate wraps up

The closing speeches have taken place, with Health Secretary Humza Yousaf speaking for the government.

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The vaccine passport motion will be voted on shortly

Scottish Government Debate: COVID-19 Vaccine Certification Scheme

Motion ref: S6M-01123

Asked by: John Swinney

That the Parliament commends the extraordinary effort of vaccination teams throughout Scotland, which means that, as of 6 September 2021, 84% of eligible over 18-year-olds were double-vaccinated against COVID-19; recognises that case numbers remain stubbornly high and that action is needed from all sectors to ensure that baseline COVID measures are rigorously implemented; acknowledges that a number of other countries have introduced COVID certification schemes and that the UK Government has plans to introduce a vaccine certification scheme in England; believes that, in line with the Scottish Government's strategic intent, a COVID Vaccine Certification scheme can provide a targeted means to maximise Scotland's ability to keep certain higher risk settings open, while reducing the impact of transmission and encouraging the remaining sections of the population to get vaccinated; supports the implementation of a COVID Vaccine Certification scheme; agrees that the scheme will apply to nightclubs, sexual entertainment venues, indoor unseated live events with 500 or more attendees, outdoor unseated live events with 4,000 or more attendees and all events with 10,000 or more attendees; notes that measures are being taken to ensure digital inclusivity and to ensure that disabled people are not disproportionately impacted, and for regular review.

SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT

| MSPs will shortly back this motion

With the backing of the Greens this motion is guaranteed to pass at 5.30pm.

The Tories, Labour and the Lib Dems will all vote against it.

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17:14 9 September 2021

Covid: Pfizer and AstraZeneca approved as booster vaccines



The UK medicines regulator has approved the use of Pfizer and AstraZeneca as Covid booster vaccines, paving the way for a rollout ahead of the winter.

But the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI), the UK vaccine advisory body, has not decided if they are needed, and who should be eligible.

The JCVI has said **a third dose should be offered** to people with severely-weakened immune systems.

Up to half a million people over the age of 12 in the UK are in this group.

[Read more here.](#)

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Coronavirus outbreak analyses

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17:00 9 September 2021

How will the passports work?

- From 30 Sep people will be able to use the NHS Scotland Covid Status App which also has a QR code. Anyone unable to use the App can request a secure uneditable paper record of vaccination. This will replace the current interim solution for accessing records of vaccination.
- Staff in the venues affected can download the “NHS Scotland Covid Check” verifier app to a smartphone or device. This will be available during the course of the next week, well in advance of launch of the scheme.
- There will be detailed guidance for venues on how to use this. There will also be options for venues to integrate the verifier functionality into their own systems.
- A person who cannot be vaccinated for medical reasons will be able to apply for a document that says they are exempt. Those who are on clinical trials already have their exemption letter. They will be able to show that instead of record of vaccination.



16:55 9 September 2021

Green support guarantees vaccine passport introduction

Ms Mackay implores the Conservatives to lobby their colleagues at Westminster to extend furlough.

The Green MSP says if the health of the population was the only thing at risk then wider restrictions would "probably be an obvious step" - however she says this is "no longer a choice" with the end of furlough coming.

Having worked with the government on the scheme, she welcomes the provisional end date for passports at the end of February and says medical data will be "limited" so as not to adversely affect marginalised groups.

She concludes saying we are "in the realm of the least worst option", but says her party will continue to work with the government on the issue.



16:50 9 September 2021

Where will you need a vaccine passport to visit?

Vaccination certification will be introduced for the following events and venues:

- nightclubs and analogous settings
- sexual entertainment venues
- unseated indoor live events, with more than 500 people in the audience
- unseated outdoor live events, with more than 4,000 people in the audience
- any event, which has more than 10,000 people in attendance



16:44 9 September 2021

Greens: We need young people to take up vaccines



Scottish Green MSP Gillian Mackay outlines her party's position on vaccine passports

Gillian Mackay of the Scottish Greens sets out the reasons behind her party's backing of vaccine passports after "hoping" it would not be a necessary measure.

She says Scotland is "on the brink" of re-imposing restrictions and cites health boards that have stopped certain procedures due to Covid pressure.

Ms Mackay asks the cabinet secretary to divulge if there has been any more uptake of the vaccination among young people since last week and argues for more encouragement for these age groups to get jagged.

She says the passport scheme does not appear to have increased vaccine hesitancy, but says she "implores" health boards to reach out to groups that have already expressed concerns.



16:30 9 September 2021

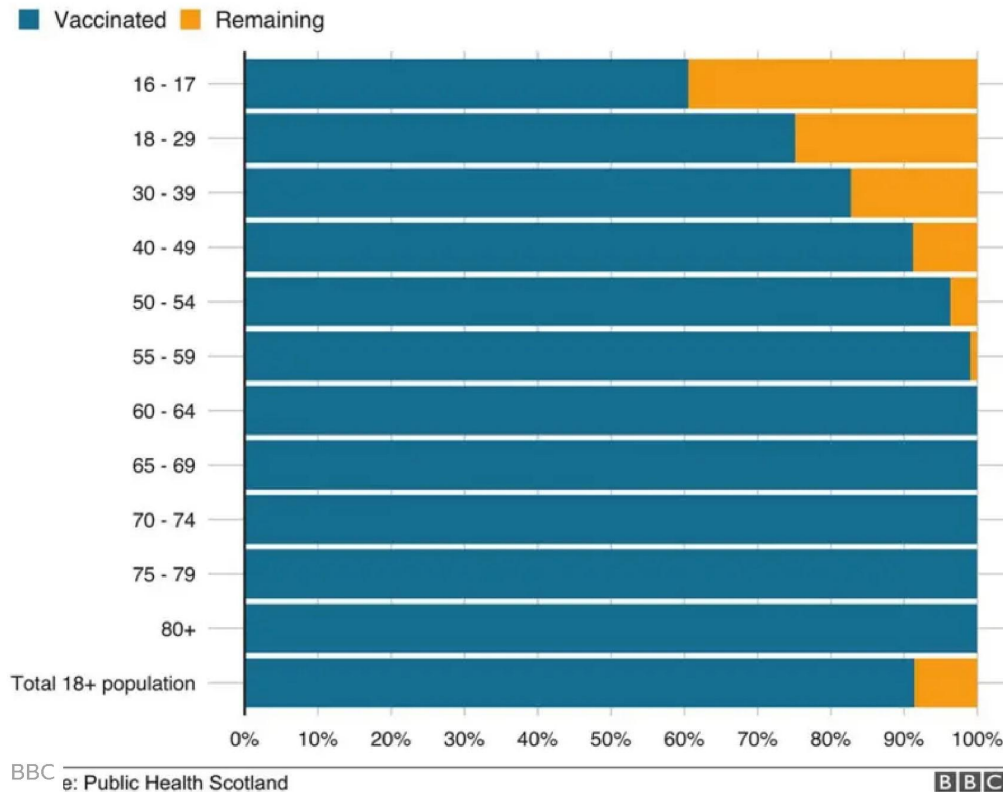
Background: How many younger people are still to be vaccinated?

To date 75.1% of 18-29 year olds have had a first dose, with about 700-800 typically coming forward for their first jab each day.

That means that roughly 200,000 people in this age group are still unvaccinated.

How much progress is being made in each age group?

First dose of vaccine



Progress has been brisker among 16 and 17-year-olds, with more than 60% having had a first dose despite the rollout to this age group only starting in August.

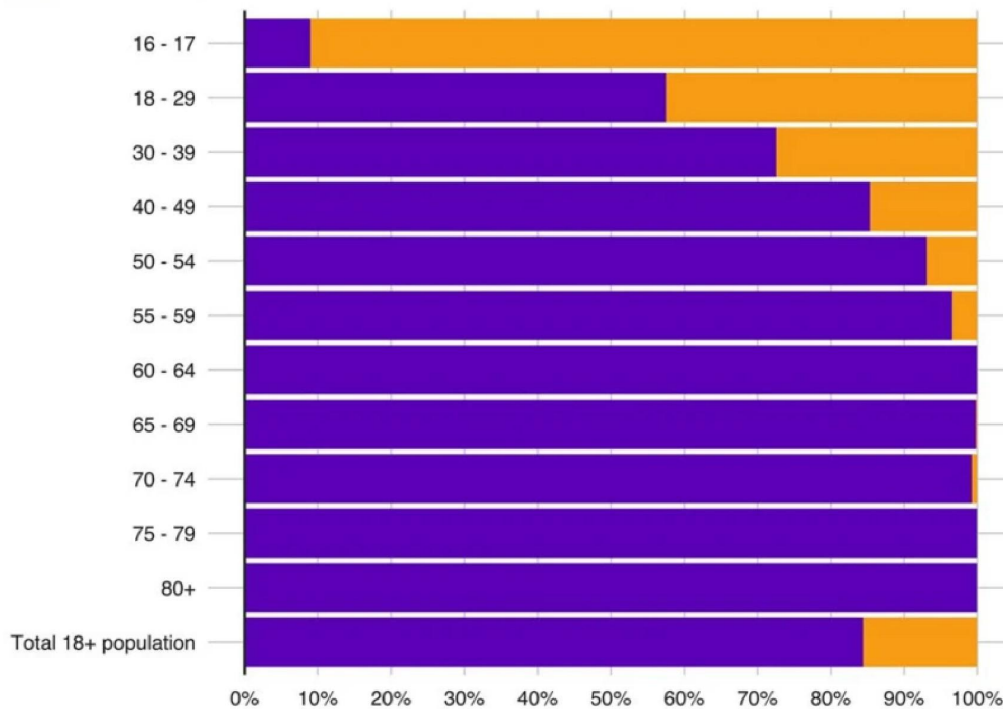
When it comes to figures for both doses, 57.5% of 18-29 year olds are fully vaccinated.

For 16 and 17 year olds, the figure is much lower - 8.9% - as many of them have only recently had their first job.

How much progress is being made in each age group?

Second dose of vaccine

■ Vaccinated ■ Remaining



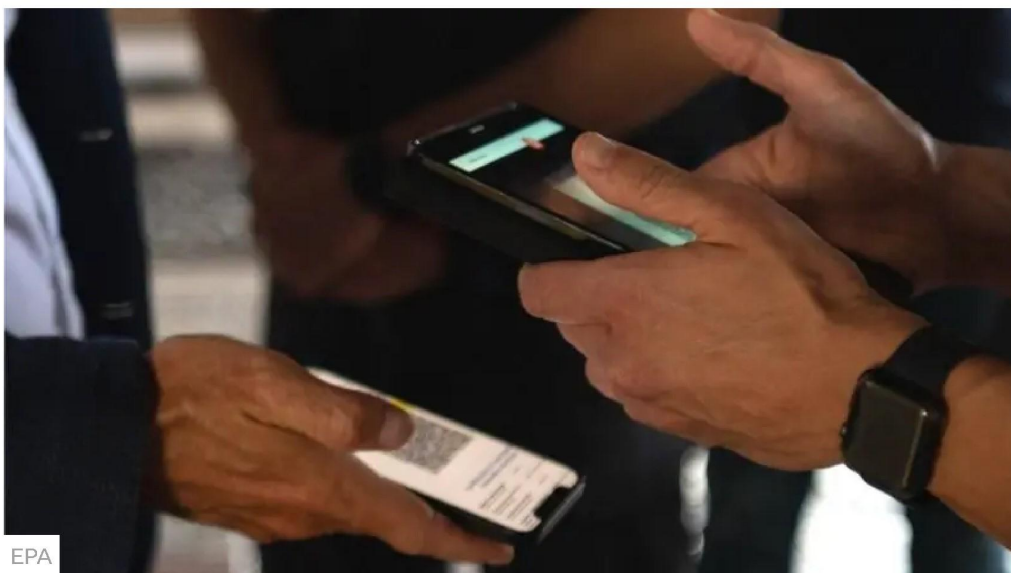
BBC e: Public Health Scotland

BBC

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MSPs debate Scottish vaccine passport scheme



EPA

New apps are being developed to display and read the Scottish vaccine passport's QR codes

MSPs are debating controversial plans to introduce a vaccine passport scheme in Scotland.

The move will mean that only people who have been fully vaccinated will be allowed into nightclubs, major sporting events and many concerts and festivals.

The Scottish government says the plan is designed to allow large events to go ahead as safely as possible.

Details of the proposals were only published by the government on Thursday morning - just hours before the vote.

- [Read more here](#)
- [What do we know about Scotland's vaccine passport?](#)
- [How will Scotland's vaccine certificate change?](#)
- [Covid in Scotland: Where are the latest cases?](#)

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16:16 9 September 2021

ICU and hospital figures continue to creep up

The Scottish government has published the latest Covid-19 statistics.

- 6,836 new cases of Covid reported
- This represents 10.8% of those who were tested
- 12 further people have died after testing positive
- 87 people were in ICU
- 928 people were in hospital

And on vaccinations:

- 4,133,606 people have received the first dose of the Covid vaccination
- 3,757,337 have received their second dose

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16:12 9 September 2021

Young people 'should be exempt from passports'

Mr Cole-Hamilton says the passports represent the beginning of medical ID cards as they require a photo.

He also argues they may not increase the rate of vaccination uptake among young people either as there is already a black market for vaccine certificates in France.

Finally, he calls on the government to exempt young people from having to use the scheme for things like football matches as it would "artificially put pressure" on them to decide whether or not to have the vaccine.

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Lib Dems call for lateral flow tests instead of passports



Scottish Liberal Democrat leader Alex Cole-Hamilton says his party is "fundamentally opposed" to the passport scheme on grounds of ideology and practicality.

He says it does not address the booster programme, which could result in "another crushing burden" to the hospitality industry.

After talks with industry representatives, he says there is concern vaccine passports could give people a "false sense of security" which could lead to increased transmission of the virus.

One alternative plan would be to present a negative lateral flow test for access to venues, he says, as it does not "compel you to access certain form of treatment".

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16:02 9 September 2021

Test and Protect 'simply not coping'

Ms Baillie asks why the Scottish government is moving at "snail's pace" on improving Test and Protect.

The Scottish Labour MSP warns: "They are simply not coping."

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15:57 9 September 2021

Labour oppose vaccine passports



Jackie Baillie warns there is a real danger that vaccine hesitancy may become entrenched if the passport scheme is introduced.

Scottish Labour's health spokesperson also warns about exacerbating inequalities.

She asks if the SNP government have engaged with the nighttime and hospitality industries.

Ms Baillie warns the government is in danger of giving a false sense of confidence.

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Conservatives will not vote for vaccine passports

Mr Ross points out that the vaccine status app the government is rolling out will need an update in future and that the government has not provided sector specific detail on how the scheme will be operated.

He quotes Steven Montgomery from the Hospitality Group who said the sector does not know how passports are going to work.

Mr Swinney asks Mr Ross to set out what he believes are the steps to take to avoid more restrictions, to which the Scottish Conservative Party leader says contact tracing should be improved.

Mr Ross concludes that his party will not be voting for the vaccine passport scheme.

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15:44 9 September 2021

Definition of nightclubs still 'in discussion' with industry



Scottish Conservative leader Douglas Ross begins by repeating his question to Mr Swinney - what is a nightclub?

Mr Swinney says this question is the subject of further discussions with the night-time industry and will be set out in regulations.

Mr Ross says the deputy first minister wants parliamentarians to "impose" vaccine passports on establishments without knowing which ones it will affect.

He also disagrees with MSP John Mason, who argues that the parliament's Covid committee would look at the details while today MSPs vote "in principle".

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How will the passports work?

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DFM outlines events and venues where passports will be required

Mr Swinney says: "We propose that vaccination certification should be introduced once all adults have had the opportunity to be fully

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