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# COVID Travel FAQ

EFFECTIVE DEC. 15 , 2021

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VACCINE ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

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## **What measures will go into effect in Costa Rica on Dec. 1, 2021?**

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From December 1, 2021 to February 7, 2022, all commercial establishments (listed at the end of this document) and mass activities can voluntarily require that their clientele present proof of COVID-19 vaccination via the QR code to enter, in order to operate at full capacity. Minors will not be required to present proof of vaccination.

Commercial establishments that choose not to require the QR code must operate under limited capacity and abide by physical distancing measures, and handwashing.

Beginning Nov. 22, 2021, fully vaccinated tourists with authorized COVID-19 vaccines will receive a QR that can be used to present proof of vaccination within the country.



# 2

## Are there exceptions to this new requirement?

Yes. The following exceptions have been outlined for commercial establishments that choose to require proof of vaccination:

1. Individuals aged 18 and younger **are not required to present proof of vaccination.**

1. Individuals with a **duly accredited medical condition** that prevents them from being vaccinated are not required to present proof of vaccination. They must attach their medical report **(in English or in Spanish)** to the Health Pass that they complete as a requirement to enter Costa Rica.

The guidelines for this exception for tourists will be shared as they become available.







# 3

## Which vaccines are allowed in Costa Rica?

Costa Rica has approved the below list of COVID-19 vaccines, licensed for emergency use by the World Health Organization (WHO) or a strict regulatory authority (e.g., EMA, FDA).

VACCINE	ALTERNATIVE NAME	DOSE
Astra Zeneca/Oxford	Covishield Vaxzervia AXD1222 ChAdOx1 ChAdOx1_nCoV19 India	2
Pfizer/Biotech	Comirnaty BNT162b2 Tozinameran	2
Moderna	Spikevax mRNA-1273	2
Janssen	COVID-19 Vaccine Janssen Johnson & Johnson Ad26.COV2.S	1
Sinovac-CoronaVac	COVID-19 Vaccine (vero cell) Coronavac TM	2
Sinopharm	SARS-CoV-2 Vaccine (vero cell)	2
Covaxin	Inactivated (InCoV) BBV152 Bharat Biotech's COVID-19 vaccine	2





## What does fully vaccinated mean?

Fully vaccinated is recognized as the **total number of doses** for each vaccine indicated by the manufacturing pharmaceutical company, with the final dose having been applied at least 14 days prior to entering the country.

The **schemes** adopted by international health authorities **that combine vaccines** from different pharmaceutical companies will be considered a complete vaccination scheme, provided that the vaccines are authorized by a Strict Regulatory Authority.

Cases in which the traveler receives a single dose after having been **diagnosed with the SARS-CoV-2** virus will be considered fully vaccinated. In these instances, the vaccination documentation must indicate that it is a 1/1 dose (dose one of one).

In the case of the **United Kingdom**, where health authorities permit only one dose for children between 12 and 16 years of age, the vaccination certificate must indicate that it is a 1/1 dose (dose one of one) in order to be accepted.

Documentation verifying vaccination status in the Health Pass must contain the following information:

- a. **Full name (consistent with passport)**
- b. **Name of administered vaccine**
- c. **Date of each administered dose**

### **IMPORTANT:**

Documentation must be submitted in English or in Spanish. Submitting documentation in a different language may prevent it from being reviewed.

The Ministry of Health and the Costa Rican Tourism Institute are not responsible for documentation submitted in a language other than English or Spanish.

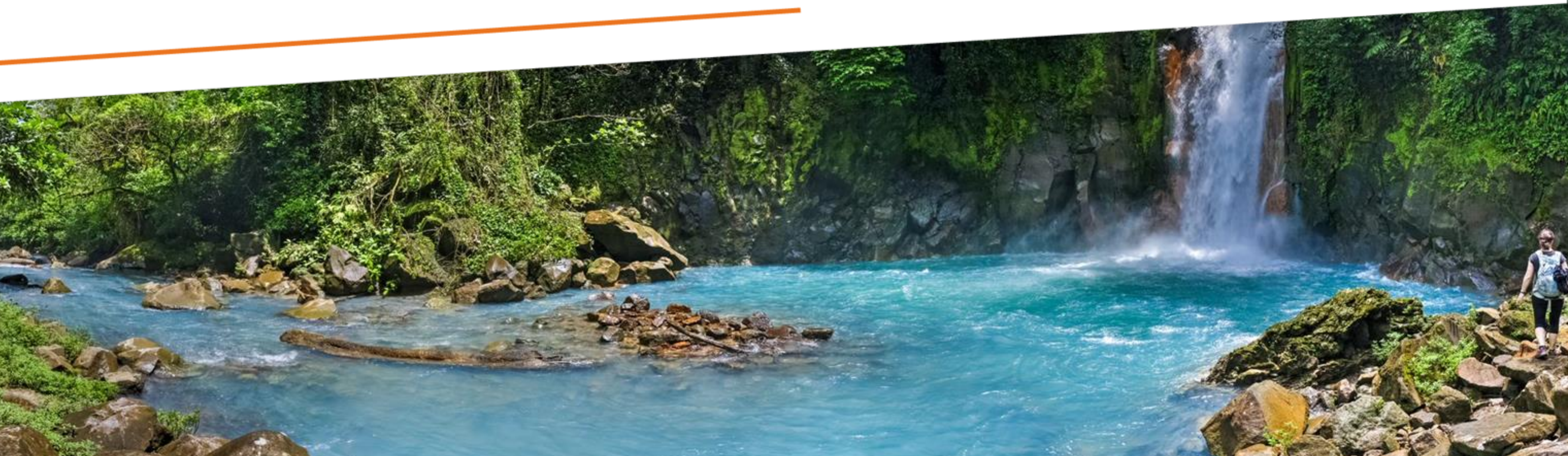
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## **Is the Sputnik V vaccine authorized in Costa Rica?**

No. The Sputnik V vaccine is not currently authorized in Costa Rica, as it has not been endorsed by the WHO or a strict regulatory agency.







# 6

## **What happens in the case of young people in the United Kingdom who are only allowed to receive one dose, per the order of their health authorities?**

Individuals aged 18 and younger are exempt from presenting proof of vaccination to enter commercial establishments that choose to require it.

To admit a vaccination scheme as complete, Costa Rica's Ministry of Health requires that it is verified through the documentation issued by the respective country's health authority.





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## **Can vaccinated tourists show their vaccine card to enter a commercial establishment?**

Yes. Beginning on December 17, Costa Ricans and foreign nationals who have been vaccinated abroad and do not have a QR code will be allowed to show a physical vaccine card issued abroad to demonstrate their full vaccination status in order to enter commercial establishments that require patrons to be fully vaccinated.

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## **What happens if a traveler is unable to get vaccinated in their country and has already booked a flight to Costa Rica?**

These travelers may enter the country by complying with Costa Rica's travel insurance policy, which must be valid for at least five days and cover medical expenses and lodging expenses due to COVID-19.

They will not be able to enter commercial establishments that have voluntarily chosen to require proof of vaccination via the QR code or a printed vaccination certificate. This applies to individuals aged 18 and older.

Minors will not be required to present proof of vaccination.





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**What happens if a tourist family has a hotel reservation booked and the parents are vaccinated, but their 12 and 15-year-old children are not?**

Minors will not be required to present proof of vaccination to enter commercial establishments.



## What should tourists do if they were vaccinated in Costa Rica, but only hold a vaccination card and not a vaccination certificate?

Foreigners (non-residents) who were vaccinated in Costa Rica may request that the Ministry of Health create their vaccination document.

To do so, they must:

Fill out the digital form (Formulario de Solicitud de Documento Oficial Estado de Vacunación de COVID-19) located at the end of the page:

<https://www.ministeriodesalud.go.cr/index.php/vigilancia-de-la-salud/certificado-de-vacunacion-covid-19>

Foreigners can visit the website below to self-generate the document, 10 days following the completion of the online form.

<https://usuarios.ministeriodesalud.go.cr/>

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## How will international tourists obtain their QR code?

Beginning Nov. 22, 2021, tourists entering the country will receive a specific QR code after their Health Pass (digital epidemiological form) application has been reviewed and approved.

They will be able to use their designated QR code to enter commercial establishments (listed at the end of this document) that have voluntarily decided to require proof of vaccination.



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## **What will happen for tourists who are already in the country when the requirements change?**

Costa Rica will begin generating QR codes for tourists on Nov. 22, 2021.







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### **Does Costa Rica's app read QR codes from other countries?**

The Costa Rican app only reads QR codes generated by the Costa Rican authorities. Costa Rica is developing a technological solution that will generate a QR code on the vaccination documentation that the passenger uploads to the Health Pass.

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### **To enter a commercial establishment, can a tourist present a vaccination certificate or a QR code?**

Yes, the tourist can present the QR code generated by the Costa Rican authorities or vaccination card .





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## Do I need the QR Code or vaccination card to enter national parks and protected areas managed by the National System of Conservation Areas (SINAC)?

National parks and protected wild areas administered by SINAC are exempt from requesting the QR code requirement or vaccination card from visitors without needing to reduce capacity.

(All subject to the epidemiological conditions of the virus in Costa Rica).

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## What data protection standards does the QR code meet in Costa Rica?

Costa Rica's QR code will follow the European Commission format. The QR data includes:

- 1. Personal data:** name and date of birth
- 1. Encrypted:** vaccination information
- 1. Security data:** unique ID, security information, country of issuance and the electronic seal of the Ministry of Health of Costa Rica (institutional certified digital signature)





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## **Will unvaccinated tourists be able to enter the country?**

Yes. Tourists who are not fully vaccinated, or who have vaccines that have not been endorsed by WHO or a strict regulatory agency, will be able to enter the country.

If they are over 18 years of age, they must complete the Health Pass and purchase a travel policy valid for at least five days that covers accommodations and medical expenses in the event of COVID-19.

On Dec. 1, 2021, commercial establishments will have the option to voluntarily require that their clientele present proof of COVID-19 vaccination to enter. It is recommended that individuals verify the modality of the commercial establishments that they wish to visit.

Essential services such as supermarkets, pharmacies, grocery stores and hospitals are exempt from this requirement.



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## **Will unvaccinated minors aged 18 and younger be allowed to enter commercial establishments?**

Yes. From Dec. 1, 2021 to Jan. 7, 2022, commercial establishments that choose to admit only vaccinated clientele will only require proof of vaccination from those aged 18 and older.





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## **Will the Health Pass still be required to enter Costa Rica?**

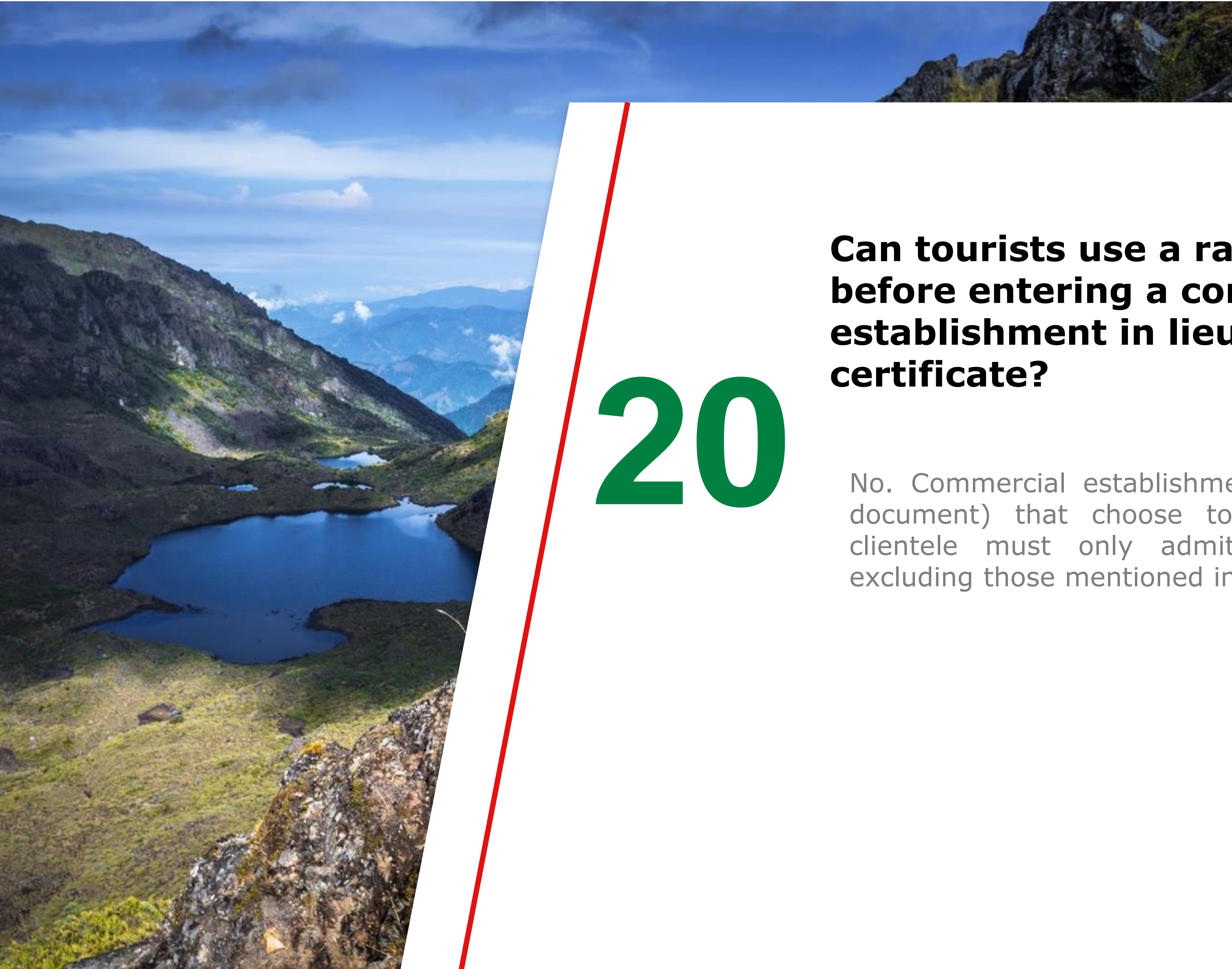
Yes, the Health Pass (digital epidemiological form) will remain a requirement.

A QR code to enter commercial establishments that require proof of vaccination will be generated once staff reviews and approves the Health Pass application.

Costa Rica will begin generating local QR codes required to enter commercial establishments on Nov. 22, 2021.







# 20

## **Can tourists use a rapid antigen test before entering a commercial establishment in lieu of a vaccination certificate?**

No. Commercial establishments (listed at the end of this document) that choose to only admit fully vaccinated clientele must only admit 100% vaccinated clientele, excluding those mentioned in question 2.





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## **What is involved in the transition period in force between December 1, 2021 and February 7, 2022?**

The transition period for the voluntary use of the QR Code applies to commercial establishments and high-occupancy activities, whose administrators or organizers may choose between two occupancy models:

- A. Voluntary implementation of certification using the QR Code: Allows higher occupancy (up to 100% for some establishments).
  
- B. No implementation of the QR code: Establishments will have a lower occupancy and will need to respect physical distancing of 1.8 meters and social bubbles.

In addition, as a complementary measure to the QR code system, beginning on Friday, December 17, Costa Ricans and foreign nationals vaccinated abroad who do not have a QR code will be able to present their physical vaccination card issued abroad to demonstrate their full vaccination status in order to enter establishments that require patrons to be fully vaccinated.





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## **Which adventure activities can choose to admit only fully vaccinated individuals, verifiable by the QR code or a printed vaccination certificate?**

- *Terrestrial activities such as: Hiking, mountain biking, trekking, horseback riding tours.*
- *In-air activities such as: Ballooning (hot air balloons), paragliding.*
- *Aquatic activities such as: rafting, scuba diving, tubing, kayaking, parasailing.*
- *Activities with cables and ropes such as: Climbing, bungee jumping, rappelling, zip-lining, canyoning, via ferrata, spelunking (caving), high ropes, pendulum (Tarzan swing).*
- *Motorized activities such as: use of quad-cycles, motorcycles, boats, jet-skis.*

*Legal Basis: Art. 4, Regulation for the Operation of Adventure Tourism Activities, Decree N 39703-S-TUR and its reforms.*





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## **Can tourists who have recovered from COVID-19 enter Costa Rica?**

Each country has its own mechanism to verify vaccination status. This evidence must be presented by foreigners via the Health Pass.

This includes recovered travelers whose health authority has applied a single dose of COVID-19 vaccine. This must be reflected in their vaccination document as a 1/1 dose (dose one of one).

All vaccines approved for emergency use by the World Health Organization or a Strict Regulatory Agency will be accepted.

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## **Commercial establishments that may voluntarily require a verifiable QR code or printed vaccination certificate for entry beginning Dec. 1, 2021**

1. Restaurants, sodas, cafeterias and food courts, food trucks
2. Bars and casinos
3. General stores, department stores and shopping malls
4. Museums
5. Fitness centers
6. Hotels, cabins or lodging establishments
7. Spas
8. Activities, organizations, or congregations in places of worship with more than 500 people. Events that do not exceed this capacity will not require a certificate, but must apply the current measures for physical distancing of 1.8 meters, with up to 500 people
9. Event rooms for business, academic or social activities
10. Adventure tourism
11. Theaters, cinemas, art and dance academies, and establishments for artistic activities
12. Sports facilities





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